

**From:** [Mayor](#)  
**To:** [Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** COVID-19 Update: Final day of survey  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 5:35:23 PM  
**Attachments:** [employee support survey 8-2020.pdf](#)

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*Yvonne Woodward*

## The City of Spokane COVID-19 News Update for Aug. 25

*Information about Coronavirus Disease 19 (COVID-19) is evolving rapidly. We want to make sure our City employees have up-to-date information. We will provide this update, as needed, to communicate what you need to know, while we work to reduce the spread of this disease in our community and continue to provide critical public services.*

### **A Message from Mayor Woodward**

The protection of our community against the spread of disease and our hospitals against becoming overwhelmed took an encouraging turn this week. [Case counts and the incidence rate dropped again.](#)

That trend is the result of all of you who have put community—those with compromised immune systems, our students, our businesses, and the many others impacted by COVID—ahead of your own needs.

While an encouraging and much-needed lift for our region, we have to continue to practice the behaviors that have allowed our cases to go from well over 100 per day just a few short weeks ago to a few dozen a day during the past week. Your disciplined approach to limiting trips, wearing masks in public places, staying home when you are sick, and practicing good cough, sneeze, and hand hygiene is taking us where we all want to go.

Our desire as a community is to restart our progress to help schools reopen in person and allow businesses that are struggling to gain a much-needed increase in capacity. Your continued commitment will give us the data and information we will need to make a case with the state Secretary of Health that Spokane is ready to resume that process.

The information is encouraging and gives our community a much-needed psychological boost. While we are moving closer to meeting the state thresholds that gives our community additional flexibility, we need to continue on this path to achieve a more flexible future.

### **[Employee Support Survey](#) – Deadline is tomorrow at 5 p.m.**

If you have a school-age child/children and unmet needs or concerns about your ability to maintain your current work schedule that can't be addressed using the tools discussed below, please take a few moments to respond [to our current survey](#) if you haven't done so already. Your participation in this survey will help us gain a greater perspective on what the current need is and how we can better support you.

We are actively looking for unique and creative ways to support employees as they navigate and adapt to school reopening plans. Over the last few months, the City has offered Emergency Paid Sick Leave, Emergency Paid FMLA Leave, telework, and alternate work schedules to assist with needs created by school delivery changes. If you are interested in one of these options going forward, please talk to your supervisor or Human Resources.

The deadline to complete the survey is Wednesday, Aug. 26, at 5 p.m. For employees who don't have a City email account, the link to the survey has been added to the [Employee Portal for COVID-19](#), and a printable copy of the survey also is attached for supervisors to share. Physical Surveys can be scanned and sent to Human Resources Employee Communications at [erahrec@spokanecity.org](mailto:erahrec@spokanecity.org).

### **Recreating Safely during the Last Weeks of Summer**

It's a great time to get outdoors – but we must make sure we're being responsible when enjoying parks, trails, and natural areas!

Check out the [#RecreateResponsibly](#) guidelines for enjoying these outdoor spaces responsibly.

### Looking for a good book?

When you're done hiking or biking, it might be time for a good book on the back deck. The Spokane Public Library is part of the Spokane is Reading program. Spokane is Reading was started in 2001 as a way to inspire conversation among readers about a common topic—a book.

In 2020, we are not hosting a community book event due to the pandemic. Instead, we are presenting [this booklist](#) which reflects the rich tapestry of the American experience. Read one. Read several. Or read them all.

### More Information to Assist Our Employees

*Here are some more resources from our Employee Assistance Program:*

- [Be a Healthy Role Model for Children](#)

You are the most important influence on your child. You can do many things to help your children develop healthy eating habits for life. Offering a variety of foods helps children get the nutrients they need from every food group. They will also be more likely to try new foods and to like more foods. When children develop a taste for many types of foods, it's easier to plan family meals. Cook together, eat, talk together, and make mealtime a family time!

- [Affirmations for Parents](#)

An affirmation is a simple statement that you tell yourself. It might be related to things you want to accomplish, how you wish to behave, or the positive attitudes that you desire to cultivate. Your teenager needs to know that you love them, and one way you can show love is through affirmations.

There are a couple of essential rules you should consider when using affirmations:

- It would be best if you believed what you are saying is true.
- You must be consistent, persistent, and reinforcing.
- Affirmations are most effective if done every single day.

To access more topics related to COVID-19 visit: [EAPHelpLink.com](#), using company code: **CITSPO**

### Employee Information Portal ([covid19.spokanecity.org/](#))

Remember, this Employee Information Portal is a great resource for employees to stay current on what's happening with the COVID-19 response. The [Employee Information Portal](#) can be accessed from work or home, using a computer or mobile device. All of the emailed information we have sent to employees is archived here.

