

**From:** [Mayor](#)  
**To:** [Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** COVID-19 Update: Election Day  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 3, 2020 5:20:24 PM

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A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Valerie Woodward".

## The City of Spokane

# COVID-19 News Update for Nov. 3

*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**

This is a special time in our country's history and on the calendar. Election Day is part of the foundation of our democracy, and a time when our voices can be heard the loudest.

Events this year have generated an incredible amount of interest in local, state, and federal races. Voter participation by all accounts is going to reach record turnout levels. This year has been a trying one for all of us with the pandemic, difficult discussions related to race and police accountability, and ongoing civil expression of opinions nationwide.

Our fatigue is showing on many fronts, but fortunately not at the ballot box. And that's a good thing.

This is your chance to be heard. Regular voters and new voters began returning ballots earlier than usual and are continuing that trend right through the final hours of Election Day.

That level of interest and engagement is what makes our country work. As someone who really enjoys the energy, excitement, and enthusiasm that comes with participating, it makes me proud to see so many people locally and nationally casting their votes.

Regardless of who and what you support, record numbers of you are making your voices heard. That, at its core, is what our country is all about.

Many of these conversations we have been having as a country are likely to continue long past Election Day. That is democracy in action. Please be respectful of all opinions, hear all perspectives, and continue to make your voice heard.

### **Safety Concerns around the Election**

We have all heard about concerns around the possibility of civil unrest based on the election outcome. In Spokane, we have no information to indicate we should anticipate such activity. City Hall remains open to those employees who continue to work in the building. If people have concerns, they can work with their

supervisors to use leave banks or work from home, if that's possible.

That said, as you go about your week, please pay attention to your surroundings by practicing good situational awareness. It is easy to fall into habits and routines, causing us to overlook things that might otherwise raise a caution flag and keep us out of harm's way. Keep that in mind and keep your heads up.

Also, for workers in City Hall or other locations that allow for work from home, please make sure that you take what you need to be able to work from home if needed. If you have questions, concerns, or otherwise – please reach out to your supervisor.

### **City Launches new Emergency Management web site**

The City created its own Emergency Management office early this year. The office is part of Mayor's Office, providing disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery services for the city. Day-to-day emergency situations are generally handled by response-focused departments like police, fire, or public works, but when an emergency occurs that is beyond the city's normal capability to respond, emergency management comes into play. Emergency management supports additional coordination of resources, information, operational goals and planning efforts to support the response to significant emergencies in Spokane. Check out the [Emergency Management Office's new web site](#).

### **What's up with Reopening City Hall?**

City leaders and staff members have developed a plan to coordinate a reopening of City Hall for visits from the public and greater in-person work. State guidance still puts the reopening of public buildings in Phase 3. Spokane currently is in Phase 2, and movement between phases is currently on hold.

When Spokane moves to Phase 3, an opening date will be determined. Some employees will continue to work from home even after the opening in order to accommodate required physical distancing. More to come.

### **Benefits Open Enrollment Runs through Nov. 13**

Human Resources has announced a "change-only" Open Enrollment period (Nov. 2 to Nov. 13) for benefit options this year. Employees who are not changing medical plans or adding/dropping dependents on their medical and dental plans are not required to access the information. The exception to this is those wishing to participate in one of the Flexible Spending Accounts for Health Care or Dependent Care in 2021.

Additional information also is available on the City's SharePoint Site. And, if you need help, please contact an Employee Benefits Team Member at 625.6565 or [eracb@spokanecity.org](mailto:eracb@spokanecity.org).

### **Library Re-Opening to 25% Capacity by Appointment**

Starting November 4, Spokane Public Library customers [can make reservations for Grab-N-Go Access](#) for light browsing and inside holds pickup. Masks and social distance required.

Customers can download the [Spokane Public Library app](#) on their iPhone or Android and use the Self-Service Checkout button to scan and check out their materials using their own device, without touching any shared equipment. Customers [can make reservations for Limited Computer Access](#) at all locations. [Curbside Pickup](#) by appointment is still available at all locations, including walk-in pickup at STA Plaza.

## Library Unveils Designs for New Kids Areas

[Designs have been unveiled for enhanced children's spaces at the new and renovated Spokane Public Library locations.](#) Each library play space will be an access point to a whimsical alternate reality that draws on familiar features of Spokane's landscape and culture. This unified world will encourage visitors to continue their journey at other library locations. Around the bend, under the bridge, between those trees – find your way into Spokane's hidden worlds.

"When the Library Bond passed in 2018, the number one requested improvement from our community was improved children's spaces," said Andrew Chanse, Executive Director, Spokane Public Library.

To make that request come to life, Spokane Public Library engaged Luci Creative, a Chicago-based children's playscape design firm, to develop six whimsical children's spaces for the Central Library (formerly Downtown), Shadle Park, Liberty Park, Hillyard, Indian Trail, and South Hill.

## More Information to Assist Our Employees

*This week, we are turning to the Mayo Clinic for a little information:*

- [Election Stress Disorder: Is it real?](#)  
Election Stress Disorder isn't a scientific diagnosis but the concept is real, says the Mayo Clinic. More than two-thirds of American adults say the 2020 U.S. Presidential election is a significant source of stress in their lives, affecting people from both sides of the political aisle.

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

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