

From: [Mayor](#)
To: [Mayor](#)
Subject: COVID-19 Update: Collaboration
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 3:01:11 PM



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

The City of Spokane **COVID-19 News Update for Feb. 23**

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

We have talked a lot about the importance of working together to get things done. Collaboration is extremely powerful as we have seen on numerous occasions. Unfortunately, it is also easily set aside in favor of expediency, out of frustration, as a simple oversight, and for a whole host of other reasons.

Collaboration delivered a tentative agreement between the City and the Spokane Police Guild on a new 5-year contract that fully complies with the City Charter. This contract, which must still be voted on by the City Council and Guild membership, meets the dual needs of the community to show support for its police officers and gain greater clarity on civilian oversight. Spokane and the Spokane Police Department have been leaders in police accountability reform, and this is a result of that continued leadership and willingness to honestly evaluate how officers can best serve the community.

Getting to this point has been challenging. To the great credit of those who have been a part of this discussion for four years, they never gave up.

We did things a little differently to restart negotiations this summer. I got personally involved at the table at the invitation of the Guild. I also asked the Council President to join me on several occasions. The independent police ombudsman also provided feedback to contract language.

I can't overstate how important getting everyone together was to moving us forward from the deep disappointment we all felt when we had to return to the table after getting so close. That disappointment, as painful as it was, gave us an opportunity to hear each other out and to really listen to one another.

Those conversations were difficult at times. They were honest, they were raw, and they were worth it. The City Council trusted me and our relationship enough to try something different. And, to everyone's great credit, collaboration delivered again.

Parks & Hoopfest Team Up on Outdoor B-ball League

The Spokane Hoopfest Association and City of Spokane Parks & Recreation are partnering to present the City's first [Hooptown USA Outdoor League](#) this spring, under Phase 2 guidelines. Registration opens online

Saturday, Feb. 20, at 8 a.m.

“We want to see athletes of all ages outside and playing basketball,” said Matt Santangelo, executive director, Spokane Hoopfest Association. “There is a strong desire to get back outside and be active, and we can do it safely under the current guidelines. We have a fantastic park system, a great partnership with Spokane Parks & Rec, and we are excited at the possibilities now and in future years.”

The Hoopstown USA Outdoor League will begin Saturday, March 13 and run for eight weeks utilizing outdoor, centrally located Hoopfest Community Courts in Spokane parks. Scholarships are available, and Hoopfest wants to ensure all teams and players interested in participating in this league are able to do so without cost as a barrier.

Last Day to Skate

The last day of ice skating at the [Numerica Skate Ribbon](#) will be Sunday, February 28! Schedule your reservations today and get in all the ice time you can for the remaining 12 days of the season!

Unlimited Ice Pass update: Purchase your Unlimited Ice Pass before the season ends and skate for the remainder of the 2020-2021 season and the entire 2021-2022 season! *Promotion applies to passholders who purchased their Unlimited Ice Pass on/after Feb. 12, 2021.

Reserve a Computer at the Library starting March 2

With the move to Phase 2, citizens can reserve 30 minutes of computer time at Spokane Public Library locations starting on March 2. Check emails, catch up on social media, print important documents, or use the library's free online resources. Read the rules and schedule a time on the [library's web site](#).

And watch for more changes. Limited browsing access soon to follow.

Where to Get a Vaccine

In Washington state, we are currently in Phase 1B of tier 1 vaccine distribution. Anyone 65 and older, and all people 50 and older who also live in a multigenerational household, are now eligible to receive the vaccine.

A great way to find out when you are eligible to get the vaccine is to use the [state's "Phase Finder" tool](#). Use of the tool also is now **required** when seeking a vaccine through the mass vaccination clinics, like the one at the Spokane Arena. Here is [information on that clinic](#). Online self-scheduling will be open when there are vaccine appointments available. Check the [CHAS Facebook page](#) for updates.

The Arena clinic is far from the only place to receive a vaccine in Spokane. Check out [this list](#) on the Washington State Department of Health's site that lists a number of locations with links on how to schedule appointments.

More Information to Assist Our Employees

Here are some more resources from our Employee Assistance Program:

- [Evaluating Your At-Home Workstation](#)

For those employees who have not yet evaluated their at-home workspace for proper ergonomics, now is the time. [Ergonomics is an "applied science concerned with designing and arranging things](#)

[people use so that the people and things interact most efficiently and safely," according to Merriam Webster.](#) Poor ergonomics can lead to muscle strains, tendon injury, bursitis, carpal tunnel syndrome, and even digestion issues.

- [Anxiety Disorders at Work](#)

Anxiety disorders are highly treatable, yet only one-third of those who suffer from an anxiety disorder receive treatment. Anxiety disorders are medical illnesses. They are chronic, relentless, and can grow if left untreated. Most people feel a little anxious before a big speech, a job interview, or a visit to the doctor. Sweaty palms and butterflies in your stomach are normal reactions. Crippling fear, however, is not normal.

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.