

From: [Mayor](#)
To: [Mayor](#)
Subject: COVID-19 Update: Black History Month
Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2021 3:30:25 PM



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

The City of Spokane **COVID-19 News Update for Feb. 9**

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

February is the month each year that we lift up the many great contributions Black Americans have made to our community and country.

Spokane is celebrating many great leaders who have helped shape the landscape and dialogue in our community. Those include civil rights leaders, pastors, authors, police officers, educators, business leaders, youth mentors, and so many others from all walks of life, each with a story to tell and a reason for choosing their point of engagement. No matter where you enter the conversation, the point is you have an opportunity to make a difference.

This year the celebration takes on an even deeper meaning and greater importance as we acknowledge that some of those contributions have come from moments that are not always so proud. The conversation about how we improve has been passionate and pointed, filled with urgency and agonizing desire to advance as a region and as a nation. Most of all, it has been honest.

While the celebration lasts a month, the conversation and the impact will carry on. As we pause ever so briefly in recognition and respect of those who have taken us to this point, please remember that there is still hard work ahead for all of us. Today we celebrate and every day we look for our chance to make a difference.

State Auditor's Office Data Breach

A week or so ago, the City Administrator provided our employees with information about a data breach that occurred at the State Auditor's Office. About a dozen City employees had sensitive employee information potentially compromised through work the City had been doing with the Auditor's Office. Those employees have been contacted directly.

Meanwhile, other employees, who faced fraudulent unemployment claims last spring, may have had information compromised through the breach as well. The state's unemployment system was impacted, potentially including employees whose information was used to fraudulently apply for unemployment. Learn more about [the breach and what to do here](#).

State Provides COVID Relief

Gov. Jay Inslee today signed legislation providing relief for businesses and workers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. [SB 5061](#) will increase minimum unemployment benefits for workers and provide significant tax relief for businesses over the next five years, to support recovery from the economic impacts of COVID shutdowns. The legislation is a critical piece of the state's [COVID-19 recovery plan](#). It passed with strong bipartisan support in both chambers.

COVID-19 has caused deep economic hardship for many workers and businesses. This bill, along with other relief we've provided, is another step in helping to mitigate these very difficult impacts. Read the rest of the story on the [governor's Medium page](#).

Where to Get a Vaccine

In Washington state, we are currently in Phase 1B tier 1 of 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:

- [Bridging Generation Gaps](#)
Cultural miscommunications lurk with four generations at work. It's common to find four generations sharing the same workplace nowadays. Navigating unfamiliar cultural territory can become a daily task. Generational identity —much like gender and ethnicity— distinguishes each person, but generations don't have to divide people. Understanding and appreciating each other has always been the key to teamwork.
- [Investing in Your Family](#)
Families are busier than ever before, so make an extra effort to let your spouse or partner, children, parents, and other special people in your life know how important they are to you. There are lots of ways to do this; here are some to get you started:
 - Make time to listen thoughtfully to your loved ones. Be careful not to jump in with your opinion too quickly.
 - Schedule time alone with each of your children. Let them decide how they want to spend this special time with you.
 - Make a date with your spouse. Plan something special like you did when you were dating.
 - Take your kids for a walk after dark. Look for stars in the sky, and listen for the night noises. Children remember these out of the ordinary times spent with parents.

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.