

From: [Mayor](#)
To: [Mayor](#)
Subject: COVID-19 Update: Accountability
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The City of Spokane

COVID-19 News Update for March 2

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 City Council approved 5-year contract between the City and the Spokane Police Guild yesterday, and I wanted to comment on that important agreement.

This contract is the result of people setting aside their differences, really listening to each other, and exchanging ideas to reach agreement. The Spokane Police Department can now move forward with greater clarity on civilian oversight knowing the community is behind its officers. I appreciate the work the Guild and the City Council did with me on this.

Spokane and its Police Department have long been leaders in police accountability. The department has invited outside review of its policies, practices, and training and embraced opportunities to improve. It has voluntarily undergone extensive review by a citizen Use of Force Commission and the U.S. Department of Justice; participated on President Obama’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing; and been a part of four separate academic studies on its practices, behaviors, bias-recognition, and culture.

That has resulted in body-worn cameras on officers, enhanced crisis intervention, de-escalation, implicit bias, and procedural justice training, and a shift to a community-engagement-focused policing model.

And, the department continues to seek ways to improve. This is fair contract that balances the needs of the community, the department, and the City Charter.

More Microsoft Teams Training!

As has been shared, the City has selected Microsoft Teams as its preferred virtual meetings and connectivity tool. To get the most out of this powerful program, IT is asking employees who use Microsoft Office programs as part of their jobs to attend training. You don’t have to register; just click the link below a little before the start time for the training. A camera isn’t necessary for this training.

Training Date	Time	Topic	Teams Live Event Attendee Link
Weds., March 3	11 a.m.	Teams Chats & Meetings*	Attendee Join Link

Thurs., March 4	9 a.m.	Teams Chats & Meetings*	Attendee Join Link
Thurs., March 11	11 a.m.	Teams 100	Attendee Join Link

**Teams Chats & Meetings is for those who have completed the Teams 100 class or for users who are more comfortable with the Teams application.*

Computer Woes? IT Makes it Easier to Get Help

While the IT Helpdesk is available to help employees fix computer problems remotely, sometimes our equipment requires some in-person care. Starting on Wednesday, March 3, telecommuting employees will be able to drop off equipment at additional locations besides City Hall. The goal is to make it easier on the employee who needs assistance.

In addition to City Hall, drop-off locations will include the Nelson Center, the Downriver Golf Course, and the Esmeralda Golf Course. IT will provide the employee with information, including a map of the drop-off point and instructions on how to complete the drop-off or pick-up.

Update on Unemployment Claims Data Breach

The Office of the Washington State Auditor has begun notifying people whose unemployment benefits claims information may have been affected by a security breach.

The notifications will be sent by email during the next two weeks to people who filed an unemployment insurance claim in 2020. This may include people whose information was used to file fraudulent unemployment claims, as happened to a number of City employees. In addition to general information about identity theft protection, the email includes an individual code for 12 months of free credit monitoring as well as instructions on how to enroll and request assistance. [Here is the full release](#)

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.

The Hooptown 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.

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:

- [Complicated grief](#)

Losing a loved one is one of the most distressing and, unfortunately, everyday experiences people face. Most people experiencing normal grief and bereavement have a period of sorrow, numbness, and even guilt and anger. Gradually these feelings ease, and it's possible to accept the loss and move forward. For some people, feelings of loss are debilitating and don't improve even after time passes. This is known as complicated grief, sometimes called persistent complex bereavement disorder. In complicated grief, painful emotions are so long-lasting and severe that you have trouble recovering from the loss and resuming your own life.

- [Living with a Chronic Illness: Dealing with Feelings](#)

Your image of yourself may change. You may feel like you are not a whole person anymore. You might be embarrassed or ashamed that you have an illness. Know that, with time, your condition will become part of you, and you will have a new normal.

You will learn to live with your illness. Here are some examples:

- A person with diabetes may need to learn to test their blood sugar and give insulin several times a day.
- A person with asthma may need to carry an inhaler and avoid things that may cause an asthma attack.

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.