

**From:** [Mayor](#)  
**To:** [Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** Employee Update: State of the City  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 9, 2021 5:23:51 PM



# The City of Spokane

## Weekly News Update for March 9

*Information about Coronavirus Disease 19 (COVID-19) is evolving rapidly, and our important work as a City is continuing . We want to make sure our City employees have up-to-date information on both COVID and employee news. 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 weekend marks a significant milestone – a one-year reminder of the Sunday afternoon when things changed in ways we are still adjusting to in some respects.

We have been through a lot over the past 12 months. We have learned and loved, adapted and adjusted. We have struggled and we have survived. And we have done it together.

Join us on Wednesday, March 17, at noon for the annual State of the City Address. We will look back at the remarkable resiliency of our community and ahead to renewed hope beginning to work its way back into our lives. This year’s conversation will be virtual. You can sign up at [GreaterSpokaneInc.org](https://GreaterSpokaneInc.org). You can also visit our website at [My.SpokaneCity.org](https://My.SpokaneCity.org) for more information.

Partnership, collaboration, and hope. Those three elements have shaped and guided everything we have done over the past year and our City employees and community will do as we move forward. It has been undeniably difficult and challenging and relentless and ongoing and so many other things. The experience also taught us so many lessons about how to get things done. To list them all individually is to guarantee some will be missed. To lump them all together seems in a way to minimize the tremendous work, commitment, and dedication our community has shown in the face of unceasing adversity.

We hope to see you at the State of the City Address on March 17 at noon.

### **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.

<b>Training Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Teams Live Event Attendee Link</b>
Thurs., March 11	11 a.m.	Teams 100	<a href="#">Attendee Join Link</a>

### **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. Telecommuting employees are now 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](#)

### **Teachers & Child Care Workers now Eligible for Vaccines**

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. Also, teachers and staff in K-12 education and child care workers have been added to the list of those eligible for 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](#). Since the arena clinic opened, nearly 20,000 doses of vaccine have been administered there.

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.

### **Looff Carrousel Reopens in Riverfront Park**

Riverfront Park reopened the [Looff Carrousel](#) on Monday, March 1, under Phase 2 guidelines. Nearly a year after closing due to COVID-19, the hand-carved animals on the historic 1909 carrousel can merrily go round again with revised protocols in place. With safety at the forefront, the Looff will be operating under Indoor Entertainment COVID-19 guidelines. Here's the [information](#).

### **More Information to Assist Our Employees**

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

- [Building Social Bonds](#)  
Every relationship exists on a spectrum from healthy to unhealthy to abusive. One sign of a healthy relationship is feeling good about yourself around your partner, family member, or friend. You feel safe talking about how you feel. You listen to each other. You feel valued, and you trust each other.
- [Steps to Succeed](#)  
Getting organized can go a long way in reducing stress and freeing up time to spend on activities that you enjoy. Check out some strategies for getting and staying organized.

To access more topics related to COVID-19 visit: [EAPHelpLink.com](https://EAPHelpLink.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.