

The City of Spokane

Weekly News Update for Oct. 12

Information about 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

For a second straight year the pandemic is heavily influencing City finances.

Our community, individuals, families, and businesses, continue to struggle under the health and financial burden that has weighed heavily on all of us. The City has likewise faced very difficult decisions as we do our part to carefully protect the services and safety of our community.

COVID has been a constant challenge to our operations and mental health, and I want to acknowledge the stress and strain our City family and the community is under. These past 19 months have forced us to meet needs in new ways and tested our patience along the way.

Our outlook is cautious and thoughtful while being realistic about continuing pandemic revenue impacts. The City will receive more than \$80 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act funding, some of which will be used to support City services. We are also in the very fortunate position with these and other federal funds to be able to make smart investments to meet immediate needs and anticipate future opportunities.

Tough decisions are still ahead. As we all watch closely how the financial year wraps up, we are taking a strategic and modest approach to meet service needs and, in some cases, taking a first step toward enhancing resources.

It's a much better place than we forecasted and definitely better than it could have been as the health crisis has continued to be unpredictable. Forecasted General Fund revenue is more than \$215 million in 2022, nearly \$6 million over currently projected 2021 revenue. That total will still fall \$5.3 million short of the pre-COVID revenue trend as the pandemic organizational impact approaches \$20 million.

I appreciate the work, contributions, and sacrifices everyone is making. We are all carrying burdens never imagined and tackling new obstacles. There have been many agonizing decisions, plenty of trying times, and through it all, we have kept our collective heads up and focused on the outcomes we all desire.

“Long-Term Care Payroll Tax” – Opting-Out

To opt-out of this Payroll Tax, as a result of purchasing a qualified, private, Long-Term Care (LTC) Insurance policy, you will need to apply for an exemption from the Employment Security Department (ESD). As a reminder, **if you do not have a qualified, private, LTC insurance policy by Monday, Nov. 1, 2021, our understanding is that you can never “opt-out” of the tax.**

To learn more visit [SharePoint](#).

Get Your Flu Shot!



You Don't Want to Be Sick, So Get the Flu Shot Quick!
Multicare Indigo Occupation Medicine will be administering the Flu Shots at NO COST to all benefitted employees.

Flu Shots will be provided at these locations.

***CDC
 Guidelines
 will Apply**

Mon. 10/11/2021	Fire Training Center	8:30 - 11:30
Mon. 10/11/2021	SCSC (915 N. Nelson)	2:00 - 3:30
Tue. 10/12/2021	Fire Training Center	8:30 - 11:30
Tue. 10/12/2021	Streets (901 N. Nelson)	3:00—4:15
Wed. 10/13/2021	Fire Training Center	8:30 - 11:30
Wed. 10/13/2021	Water Department	2:30– 3:30
Thurs. 10/14/2021	Fire Training Center	8:30 – 11:30
Mon. 10/18/2021	City Hall (Council Briefing Center)	8:30 – 12:00
Mon. 10/18/2021	Waste Water (Aubrey Complex)	2:00 – 3:00
Tue. 10/19/2021	Municipal Court Conference Rm.	9:00 – 11:00
Tue. 10/19/2021	Public Safety Bldg. Police Chief Con. Rm.	12:00-2:00
Wed. 10/20/2021	Sewer Maintenance (Sprague)	6:30 - 8:00

After October 20th, these options are also available.

Premera Blue Cross: Premera Plans – For employees and their covered dependents enrolled under Premera Plans III/IV, V, VI, VII vaccinations will be provided at your applicable in-network co-insurance level. Make sure that your clinic or provider is an In-Network provider for Premera you can go to [Premera.com](#), or call 1-800-722-1471.

Kaiser Permanente: For Kaiser Permanente covered employees and their covered dependents; Kaiser Permanente is now providing the Influenza vaccination with no co-pay to its members. Members must go to one of the Kaiser Permanente you can access this information on [wa.kaiserpermanente.org](#), or call them at 1-888-901-4636.

TALK WITH YOUR PHYSICIAN if you have a fever, or are severely ill at the time the shot is scheduled.

Contact the Benefits Department at 625-6565 or City Benefits (gracb@spokanecity.org) if you have questions.

More Information to Assist You

Here are some more resources from our Employee Assistance Program:

- [Breast Cancer Awareness](#)
Other than skin cancer, breast cancer is the most common cancer among American women. Getting mammograms regularly can lower the risk of dying from breast cancer. Mammograms are the best way to find breast cancer early, when it is easier to treat and before it is big enough to feel or cause symptoms. Ask your doctor when you should get a mammogram.
- [Breast Cancer Also Occurs in Men](#)
Breast cancer may occur in men. Breast cancer may occur in men at any age, but it usually occurs in men between 60 and 70 years of age. Male breast cancer makes up less than 1 percent of all cases of breast cancer.

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.