

The City of Spokane

Weekly News Update for Oct. 19

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

The world is a weighty place. The choices we make, the words we use, the things we do have an effect on our circles.

The immediate. The growing. The cumulative. It all adds up and, lately, it has been multiplying.

As I reflect on recent events and ones still on the horizon, I thought I would pass along a few ideas and experiences people have shared. For me, they are good reminders to keep moving forward through the chaos, noise, and sometimes messiness of everyday life.

Be a collaborator, a convener, a caregiver in the moment and in the moments. Have time for the people and things that are important. Extend grace. Pause before you pounce.

We are all human with human emotions and human reactions. The stress of things outside our control and things we had hoped to control only add to the strain.

Decisions are made with the best of intentions even if they come with the worst receptions. Actions that impact others carry an extra burden even if they come from a place of compassion, caring, and conscience.

How we respond to adversity – and how we help others in that minute – is the true measure. It can be the simplest of actions. What may seem insignificant or small from the giver can mean everything to the recipient.

A hello from a stranger. A how are you from a colleague. A hug from a friend. The little things that may otherwise seem ordinary make a big difference in those situations.

We are important difference makers in the lives of so many, oftentimes even more than we may realize.

As someone who has been on both ends of the interaction, sometimes in the same day and many times in the same week, thank you for your compassion. Thank you for seeking understanding. Thank you for doing the little things that make a big difference.

Network Changes for Kaiser & Premera Members

There are changes that will affect each of you at Open Enrollment. [Please consider these changes](#) when making your medical plan decisions as they relate to Open Enrollment.

Network Change for Kaiser Members

Kaiser Permanente has notified their Members that they will no longer include MultiCare as “in-network” providers effective January 1, 2022. (Rockwood Clinic, Valley Hospital, Deaconess Hospital, etc.)

What that means to you:

If you are a Kaiser Permanente Member, you do not have coverage for MultiCare providers beginning January 1, 2022.

Emergency Care:

The Valley Hospital or Deaconess Hospital can be used ONLY for Emergency Care beginning January 1, 2022 for Kaiser Members.

Network Change for Premera Members:

Premera Members will no longer be able to see Kaiser Permanente Providers in-network. This will affect members who kept their provider with Columbia Medical Associates (CMA) after CMA moved to Kaiser in 2019.

What that means to you:

If you are a Premera Member and have continued to use Columbia IPA Providers, Premera will no longer cover these providers as in-network beginning March 1, 2022. You can continue seeing these providers out-of-network with NO preventative care services covered. Kaiser will bill you the difference between what Premera pays for services and the actual cost of the service.

Premera Network Reminder for Managerial and Professional A & B, Exempt Confidential, Fire Managerial, Court Commissioners, Judges, Mayor, Council Members & Council Staff
Premera Plan 7 uses the “Heritage Prime Network”

What that means to you:

Providence Providers are NOT in-network providers. You still have access to Providence Providers if you are a member of one of the above unions/groups or associations, however, you will pay the “out-of-network” cost shares for covered services. (Some services such as Preventative care are NOT covered out-of-network)

You will have an opportunity during Open Enrollment, November 1, 2021 through November 12, 2021, to change insurance providers. For more information visit [SharePoint](#).

“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 ([@racb@spokanecity.org](mailto:racb@spokanecity.org)) if you have questions.

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](https://covid19.spokanecity.org/) 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.