

The City of Spokane

## Weekly News Update for April 6

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*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.*

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### **A Message from Mayor Woodward**

Wow. What a journey. Forty minutes of intense competition over 32 games that captured the attention of a Hooptown, region, and, eventually, a nation.

Gonzaga basketball gave us something to look forward to, something to celebrate, something normal at a time when our world was anything but what we pictured. This magical season reminded us that hard work, commitment, and sacrifice is the way to realizing your dreams.

We hung on every dribble, pass, and shot in a season that had all of the excitement, intensity, and expectation we expect. And, yet, this one was a bit more special in a way that went far beyond the winning and the rankings. Losing March to a different kind of madness a year ago gave us new perspective, a renewed respect for things that are easily taken for granted.

Coach Mark Few reminds us that the successes his teams enjoy are the result of countless hours of dedication and determination that goes largely unseen. Winning is hard work and consistently achieving at a high level is something to cherish. Success is built on all of the little things we do when no one is watching.

Basketball is a game of runs. The really good ones find a way to feed off the success and battle through the adversity. The great ones are consistent and lean on their teammate when the doubt and pressure starts to build.

The past few months gave us four great examples. The Gonzaga and Washington State women's teams and Eastern Washington men's team and, yes, the Gonzaga men's team each pushed through immense challenges to reach heights most teams only dream about.

They were competing on a basketball court and teaching us all valuable life lessons about perseverance. Thank you for taking Spokane on this wild ride with you. You gave Hooptown USA something we have all been looking for... hope. What a season.

## Vaccines: Paid time for appointments

Essentially all City employees will become eligible for vaccines in coming days and weeks. Numerous community resources are available to receive a vaccine, and the City would like to ensure that employees have flexibility in obtaining the vaccine.

Similar to the flu vaccine, employees will be allowed to get the COVID-19 vaccine during their shift or normal working hours, without use of their leave accruals.

- Use of paid time must be pre-authorized by the employee's supervisor and arranged for a mutually agreeable time that creates the least impact to the workplace.
- Proof of appointment is required. Proof of appointment can be obtained through the online scheduling system. Employees can either print, email or show proof of appointment to their supervisor on their smart phone.
- Employees are only authorized paid time to obtain the vaccine. If they show signs or symptoms following the vaccine administration, they must use their personal leave accruals for additional time off.
- Paid time is only authorized for employees who are able to get their vaccine during their normal shift. Employees will not be eligible for overtime if they obtain the vaccine on personal time.

## Vaccines: More employees eligible

**Everyone 16 and older** who wants a COVID-19 vaccine will be eligible to receive one in Washington state starting **April 15<sup>th</sup>**.

Tiers 3 and 4 of Phase 1B are currently eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. This includes the following groups:

- People **16 years or older** with 2 or more co-morbidities or underlying conditions
- All people **60 years and older**
- People, staff and volunteers in certain congregate living settings; correctional facilities; group homes for people with disabilities; settings where people experiencing homelessness live or access services
- High-Risk critical workers in certain congregate settings; restaurants, food services, **construction** and **manufacturing**. *Many City field employees in water, wastewater, and streets, etc., qualify under the construction and manufacturing sectors.*

Here's how to proceed:

- Self-assess your eligibility under the [open phases](#). 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 can be **required** when seeking a vaccine at some clinics through the end of the month.
- [Vaccinate WA](#) can be utilized to find COVID-19 vaccine appointments in Washington state.
- Here is [information](#) to sign up for appointments at the clinic at the Spokane Arena.
- Also, **veterans** are eligible to get the vaccine. Connect with the [VA Medical Center](#) to check for appointments.

## Gym Capacity Increased and Use of Showers/Lockers Permitted

Great news! Based on the new guidance for Phase 3, we are able to increase the occupancy in City gym facilities. We are opening showers and lockers for use again. Masks are required and social distancing (6 feet) must be practiced at all times in the facility (gym and/or locker room).

Current occupancy loads for each City gym are as follows:

GYM FACILITY	TOTAL OCCUPANCY
NELSON CENTER	3
SEWER MAINTENANCE	2
TREATMENT PLANT	2
WASTE TO ENERGY	2
CITY HALL	3

Please enjoy responsibly!

## Spokane Public Library Opening For Grab N' Go Browsing

Starting April 12<sup>th</sup>, all Spokane Public Library locations will be open for Grab N' Go browsing without reservations.

- Building capacity will be set at 50%.
- Customers will be encouraged to keep their visit to 30 minutes or less.
- Marks are required.
- The first hour of each day will be reserved for high-risk customers. Visit the [Spokane Public Library website](#) for the hours of operation.
- Customers can download the [Spokane Public Library app](#) on their iPhone or Android and use the Self-Service Checkout button to scan and check out their materials using their own device, without touching any shared equipment.
- [Curbside Pickup](#) by appointment is still available at all locations, including walk-in pickup at the STA Plaza.

## More Information to Assist Our Employees

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

- [Advice for New Parents](#)  
Understand that parenthood is a transition. You may be overjoyed at the arrival of your child, but it is also likely that you may be afraid, depressed, and, yes, exhausted. You might also resent the demands of time and attention that the baby is placing on you. You may feel inadequate about your caregiving skills or fret about your child's pattern of development. Remember, this transition is normal and will take some time to complete.
- [Budgeting for New Parents](#)  
Money and finances usually cause significant strain on relationships, and it certainly needs to be discussed when you are expecting a child. Make a list of short and long-term goals you need to save for, such as potential loss of income during family leave, a family-sized car, a new home, your child's future college education, etc. Prioritize the goals you would like to accomplish.

To access more topics related to COVID-19 visit: [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.