



Julie Woodward

The City of Spokane

Weekly News Update for May 25

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

The push to get vaccinated continues and our numbers are improving as a region and state. That is extremely important for the protection of the physical health of our community and the economic health of our families.

We are beginning to see signs of a return to pre-pandemic enjoyments. College graduations have been held carefully and responsibly and high school ceremonies are being planned. Students will finish the school year in classrooms and the intention is to open schools again in the fall.

Restrictions on gatherings for outdoor leisure and sporting events are easing. Capacity at restaurants and other small businesses remain limited with the expectation that by the end of June those restrictions will be lifted.

That hope is because of the work you have put in following public health guidance and getting vaccinated. The incentive to accelerate the reopening process by increasing the vaccination rate should be a motivator for us to take control of our pandemic future so that we can enjoy a summer that looks and feels a lot more like 2019 than 2020.

It is up to all of us to keep the momentum moving toward a safe and healthy return to public and thriving economic life. We have put in so much work to get to this point. Let's push through just a little longer. If you have put off getting your vaccination, visit your local provider, stop by a pop-up clinic, go to a mass vaccination site. The process is quick and benefits you, your loved ones, and your community.

For more than a year now, you have put the health of your community first. Thank you for being part of moving us forward.

City Hall Operational Update

The third floor of City Hall is open to the public by appointment only on Mondays and Wednesdays. The limited availability is a soft reopening to help customers who require in-person assistance. With members of the public back in the building, doors that have been previously propped open while City Hall has been closed should be closed to prevent the public from accessing non-public areas.

Walmart Pharmacy Walk-In Vaccination Appointments

Vaccines are being administered at Walmart Pharmacies via both walk-up and scheduled appointments, providing a convenient option for customers to get protected against COVID-19. Walmart Pharmacies are open seven days a week and are administering the approved J&J, Pfizer, and Moderna vaccines. Pharmacy locations and vaccination appointments can be found [online](#).

Vaccines: Paid time for appointments

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.

To find a vaccine near you visit vaccinelocator.doh.wa.gov.

More Information to Assist Our Employees

Here are some more resources from our Employee Assistance Program:

- [Be Good to Yourself: Tips for Adults](#)
Many people feel stress in their daily lives. Stress can cause you to overeat, feel tired, and not want to be active. Healthy eating and regular physical activity may help offset the effects of stress. Try some of these other ideas to help relieve stress and stay on track with improving your health: get adequate sleep, try a new hobby or any activity that sparks your interest, and surround yourself with people whose company you enjoy.
- [Creating Healthy Habits](#)
Everyone knows that making healthy choices can help them feel better and live longer. Maybe you've already tried to eat better, get more exercise or sleep, quit smoking, or reduce stress. It's not easy, but research shows how you can boost your ability to create and sustain a healthy lifestyle. Change is possible and there are proven strategies you can use to set yourself up for success!

To access more topics related to COVID-19 visit: EAPHelpLink.com, using company code: **CITSP0**

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.