



Julie Woodward

The City of Spokane

Weekly News Update for June 1

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

We are hearing from some in the community that getting to centralized clinics and personal providers might be a barrier to vaccination. So, we are bringing clinics to neighborhoods. Throughout the month of June, in-neighborhood clinics will be held at three fire stations. Evening and weekend hours will be offered on multiple days and in multiple locations.

Station 8 in the northeast, Station 9 on the South Hill, and Station 17 in the northwest will offer the choice of the single dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine or the two-shot Pfizer series. Dates, times, and addresses for the in-neighborhood fire station clinics are available at www.SRHD.org along with a full list of vaccination locations throughout the region.

Increasing the vaccination rate remains the best way to protect the health of our community and the quickest, safest route to a full reopening of our public and economic life.

The number of people who have initiated vaccination in Spokane and statewide is steadily increasing. We are on track for a full statewide reopening on June 30 and even sooner if the rate for initiating vaccines reaches 70 percent among those 16 and older statewide before the end of the month.

The Spokane community has worked long and hard to overcome the global health pandemic by keeping healthcare resources from being overwhelmed and case counts under control. Public health guidance on masking and gathering remains in place as we focus on reaching full reopening by the end of June.

That goal gives us hope for a summer and beginning of the school year that looks a lot more like 2019 than 2020. Our businesses, which have given and struggled mightily during the pandemic, will also soon experience some very much needed relief.

Thank you for always putting Spokane first and for continuing to support your favorite local restaurants and businesses.

Mask Guidance for City Facilities

Regulatory restrictions regarding masking and social distancing in the workplace for fully vaccinated employees continue to evolve. Current masking protocols, which include wearing a mask inside City facilities and other enclosed environments regardless of vaccination status, will remain in place through Wednesday, June 30.

Masking and social distancing guidance remains crucial to our efforts as an organization to minimize the spread of illness, which is still a real concern. More than 10 cases have been reported among Public Works employees in recent days. Keeping our employees safe is a top consideration and, as we slowly invite the public to return to City facilities, our emphasis will expand to protecting visitors as well.

City Hall Operational Update

The third floor of City Hall are 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.

HR COVID Response Team

Whether you are an employee, supervisor, or manager, all of your COVID-19 related questions can be routed to the HR COVID Response Team. All inquiries are responded to within 24 hours, seven days a week. [Email](#) your questions to the HR COVID Response Team.

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:

- [Couples and Money: Start Talking About It \(Part 1\)](#)
All couples need to talk about money issues, such as who will pay the bills, what kind of checking accounts they will have (individual, joint, or both), and how much personal spending will be allowed. Trouble handling money can cause stress in a relationship and even lead to divorce.
- [Couples and Money: Start Talking About It \(Part 2\)](#)
Couples who manage money successfully usually have a system on which they have agreed. Deciding which system best fits an individual relationship and sticking with it can ease money tensions. Talk about the good and bad things about that particular system. Talking about this will help one understand how a partner sees the relationship when it comes to money. No matter what the money system, the most important thing is whether or not that system works!

To access more topics related to COVID-19 visit: [EAPHelpLink.com](https://www.eaphelp.com), using company code: **CITSPO**

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.