



*Julie Woodward*

The City of Spokane

## Weekly News Update for June 15

*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**

Juneteenth. End of school. Graduations. Birthdays. Anniversaries. The beginning of summer. The resiliency and togetherness of our community. Our great nation's flag. The long-anticipated reopening of our state.

June is a month of celebration. Of things past. Of things current. Of things still to come. It is a month full of hope, new beginnings, renewed acquaintances, traditions, experiences, and freedoms.

At the heart of every celebration are people. People you grew up and grow old with. People you rely on in difficult times. People you know almost as well as you know yourself and people you want to get to know better. People who made a difference in one life and in many.

So as we anticipate a summer of celebration take a moment to pause for all that we have endured, take in the lessons history – recent and distant, shameful and proud – has taught us, and apply those moments to how we move forward. There is so much to learn and experience even – no especially – in celebration.

Spokane has so much to be grateful for and embrace. Ours is a rich history that is still being written by the very people who have rallied in support of one another over the past year and who will be there tomorrow ready, once again, when we need them. Some of them you already know, others are ready to make their mark on a life and a community.

Celebrations are about people. The ones we know and love and the ones we're still getting to know and love.

### **SFD City Employee Vaccination Clinic**

The Spokane Fire Department (SFD), is hosting a special vaccination clinic for City of Spokane employees (and their families) tomorrow, June 16, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. During the clinic SFD will be administering Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine or the one-dose Janssen (Johnson and Johnson). Based on eligibility, you decide.

**Date:** Wednesday, June 16, 2021

**Time:** 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Location:** Central Service Center off the Nelson Maintenance Complex, 915 N. Nelson St.  
(Use the north clinic entrance of the SCSC building. Follow signs to the clinic in the main floor crew room.)

**Who:** All City of Spokane employees and their families. Vaccinations are available for eligible individuals 12 and older.

[Registration](#) encouraged, and walk-ins are welcome!

### **Vaccine Incentives**

Governor Jay Inslee has announced a suite of new incentives to help encourage unvaccinated Washingtonians to get the COVID vaccine.

The Washington State Lottery will be conducting a “Shot of a Lifetime” giveaway series during the month of June, working with state agencies, technology companies, sports teams and higher education institutions across the state to offer a myriad of different prizes to vaccinated individuals.

The incentives include:

- Lottery cash drawings, with prizes totaling \$2 million
- Higher education tuition and expense assistance
- Sports tickets and gear
- Gift cards
- Airline tickets
- Game systems and smart speakers

Vaccinated Washingtonians do not need to do anything to be entered in the four drawings. The Lottery will automatically gather names from the DOH statewide immunization database.

### **Mandatory Payroll Tax Effective 1/1/22**

In 2019, Governor Jay Inslee signed into law the creation of the nation’s first Long-Term Care Trust Fund, called the WA Cares Fund. The Fund will raise money, through payroll taxes, to provide Long-Term Care Benefits for eligible Washington Residents. Long-Term Care should not be confused with Long-Term Disability.

Long-Term Care is when an individual can no longer complete Activities of Daily Living (ADL) without assistance; they are unable to live independently. ADL’s include bathing, dressing, grooming, using the toilet, mobility (the ability to move about), transferring (i.e., transferring from a bed to a wheelchair, etc.) and eating.

Across the US, some 10,000 people a day are currently entering retirement, and many have no way to pay for the care they will need in old age. Since Medicare and Social Security do not cover any of the costs of Long-Term Care, Medicaid, the joint federal and state program for low-income individuals, is the largest payor for Long-Term Care services and is increasingly putting strains on the state budgets.

[Click here to learn more](#)

## More Information to Assist Our Employees

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

- [EAP Products & Resources](#)  
Your Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and work-life solutions offer a wide variety of resources designed to improve wellness, enhance organization performance and improve financial outcomes. Kepro's services help employees and family members resolve a wide range of issues to restore both personal and professional effectiveness. These services are confidential.
- [Management Services Tip](#)  
Through your 24/7 toll-free Employee Assistance Program (EAP) number, managers and supervisors have access to a dedicated Management Services team for unlimited telephonic leadership consultation services. Consultants help supervisors and managers to effectively deal with troubled employees, initiate a supervisory referral, and understand how to maintain positive, productive work environments for their employees.

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/](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](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.