



Valerie Woodward

The City of Spokane

Weekly News Update for June 29

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

That day is finally here. The one we have been working toward, dreaming about, anticipating for 15 long months. Reopening our community will come with some continued limitations, but will largely be a return to what most of us consider to be normal activity.

It will be a day of excitement, celebration, and joy for the collective accomplishment of our community. More than anything, it will be a collective exhale. A time for us to reflect about all that we have been through individually and as a region and all that still lies ahead.

The journey is not done. We have reached a major milestone and that accomplishment cannot be understated. It has very real, tangible value even beyond description.

It deserves recognition, celebration, and so many thank yous to all of you for putting others consistently first for the long-term good of our neighbors, friends, and loved ones.

We still have a lot in front of us as we emerge from the reserved and separated lives we have lived for more than a year. Forgoing birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, and so many other special and daily occasions in the interest of health gave us a new sense of appreciation for what is important to all of us.

That isolation has tested our wellness in ways we are only beginning to know and appreciate. It has impacted youth and adults, men and women, individuals and families in ways that are unique to situations with the common denominator being that the disruption has impacted all of us.

Yet, despite our physical distance, we stayed together. We hung tough, stayed resilient, and persevered. And, as we exhale and take our next steps, that's how we will recover. Together.

Protective Heat Measures

Outdoor workers who are exposed to hot and humid conditions are at risk of heat-related illness. The risk of heat-related illness becomes greater as the weather gets hotter and more humid. This situation is particularly serious when hot weather arrives suddenly early in the season, before workers have had a chance to adapt to warm weather. Use the protective measures described for each risk level to help you plan ahead.

- [Actions for Low Risk Conditions: Heat Index Less Than 91°F](#)
- [Actions for Moderate Risk Conditions: Heat Index is 91°F to 103°F](#)
- [Actions for High Risk Conditions: Heat Index is 103°F to 115°F](#)
- [Actions for Very High to Extreme Risk Conditions: Heat Index Greater Than 115°F](#)

Fourth of July Fireworks

Four separate fireworks displays will be offered across the Spokane area on Sunday, July 4, at Dwight Merkel, Ferris High School, Avista Stadium, and Plante's Ferry. Parking lots open at 8:30 p.m. and the fireworks show begins at 10 p.m. at all locations. City of Spokane Parks & Recreation, Spokane Indians Baseball Club, Spokane Rapids, and Spokane Public Schools are collaborating with several generous underwriters to produce the shows. [For more information on the fireworks displays and holiday closures visit our web site.](#)

Parking near City Hall Is Limited

Work on the water main will take longer than anticipated due to significant rock formations under Post Street. Parking and access on Post Street in front of City Hall is expected to continue to be limited into the middle of July. Please continue to plan accordingly. Thank you for your patience and understanding.



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:

- [Helping an Older Relative Who Lives At Home](#)
In a COVID-19 world, some of the tried-and-true guidance for helping aging parents or other loved ones live safely in their homes must be accompanied by new qualifications. Older adults are at an exceptionally high risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19. Because of that, frequent visits from family, help from friends and neighbors, and some home care and support services may now bring risk as well as help to your older relative—unless the people and activities are managed carefully.
- [Investing In Your Family](#)
Families are busier than ever before, so make an extra effort to let your spouse or partner, children, parents, and other special people in your life know how important they are to you. There are lots of ways to do this; here are some to get you started:
 - Make time to listen thoughtfully to your loved ones. But, be careful not to jump in with your opinion too quickly.
 - Schedule time alone with each of your children. Let them decide how they want to spend this particular time with you.

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