



Yulie Woodward

The City of Spokane

Weekly News Update for June 8

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

Sometimes life deals you challenges that become opportunities. As we evolve in our pandemic recovery, efforts around homelessness are advancing around a regional plan outlined last summer and executed over the past several months.

Partnerships with Spokane County, Spokane Valley, and numerous service providers are fundamentally shifting how we transition people out of homelessness as a region. New resources will keep young adults from becoming chronically homeless, give people a place to go during the day for a shower, restroom, meal, relief from the weather, to charge a device, connect to resources, and transition out of homelessness.

The City is adding more secure garbage cans downtown and doubling its cleanup crew to remove litter and graffiti while collaborating with other organizations to stretch resources. Public restrooms closed during the pandemic are reopening. A pilot alleyway activation in partnership with the Downtown Spokane Partnership and Spokane Arts will encourage greater use by businesses and visitors.

This fall, the system will shift to more intentionally move people out of homelessness. The Way Out shelter, operated by The Salvation Army as a drop-in shelter will become a referral-based Bridge Housing Program. People who are ready to move into stable housing will work closely with employment, behavioral health, addiction, housing, and other experts.

The Salvation Army has already proved the approach works. Since August, they have placed 64 people into stable housing and helped several find employment. A dedicated program will significantly up that number.

Operating consistent day-use space is another significant addition. For the past seven months, the Guardians Foundation has run the Cannon Street shelter 24 hours, accepting day-time walk-ins, and proving the model works.

We are doing this together. As a region. These system enhancements will get us back to accountability measures that were disrupted by the pandemic when courts closed and shelter space was at a premium. Currently, there is lots of room in the system to accommodate more shelter guests. We have made a lot of progress over the past year and you can expect more.

Spokane Fire Department Vaccine Clinics

The Spokane Fire Department is hosting vaccine clinics throughout the community. Employees and their family members/friends who are interested in obtaining unutilized vaccines should [contact Mike Lopez](#) to be placed on a list. Please provide name and phone number. Vaccines will be offered on a first come, first served basis.

- Today, June 8, 3 – 7 p.m. at Station 9, 1722 S. Bernard Street
- Wednesday, June 9, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Station 17, 5121 W. Lowell Avenue
- Monday, June 14, 4 – 8 p.m. at Station 8, 1608 N. Rebecca Street
- Thursday, June 17, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. at Station 17, 5121 W. Lowell Avenue
- Saturday, June 19, 1 – 5 p.m. at Station 17, 5121 W. Lowell Avenue
- Tuesday, June 22, 4 – 8 p.m. at Station 17, 5121 W. Lowell Avenue
- Wednesday, June 23, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Station 8, 1608 N. Rebecca Street
- Friday, June 25, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Station 9, 1722 S. Bernard Street
- Saturday, June 26, 1 – 5 p.m. at Station 17, 5121 W. Lowell Avenue
- Monday, June 28, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Station 8, 1608 N. Rebecca Street
- Tuesday, June 29, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Station 9, 1722 S. Bernard Street
- Wednesday, June 30, 4 – 8 p.m. at Station 17, 5121 W. Lowell Avenue

People who get their vaccination at a SFD clinic now through Sunday, June 13, can enter to win a \$40 gift card to David's Pizza.

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.

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:

- [Stress Management during Times of Transitions](#)
When stress on the job interferes with your ability to work, care for yourself, or manage your personal life, it is time to take action. Start by paying attention to your physical and emotional health. When your own needs are taken care of, you are stronger and more resilient to stress. The better you feel, the better equipped you will be to manage work stress without becoming overwhelmed.
- [Help Your Employee Cope with Change](#)
Helping employees adapt to changes that affect them is a major part of a manager's job. By doing this effectively, you will minimize the unproductive time spent in adapting to new organizational structure, technology, techniques and workplace strategies.

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.