

The City of Spokane

# Weekly News Update for March 1

*Information about 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.*

## **Masking Update**

State masking guidance is evolving quickly in recent days. Changes and implementation dates have been announced for both outdoor and indoor mandates and both have workplace implications. Each of those situations as they relate to you as an employee in City facilities, worksites, and vehicles is summarized below for clarity.

- State indoor mask mandate ends **at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, March 11**. The governor announced that masks will no longer be required in most public places, which includes City facilities. It is important to note that further definition and guidance is anticipated over the next four weeks from state Labor & Industries and potentially the state Department of Health regarding updated workplace rules. New information will be communicated as City policy is updated to reflect state workplace regulations. Until then, masking remains a requirement that will be strictly enforced in the workplace except when you are alone in your immediate workstation or assigned work vehicle. Remote working options, where practical, remain available if arranged through your supervisor.
- State outdoor mask mandate. The mandate, which covered large outdoor gatherings, has ended. However, masks are still required in the workplace, which includes field worksites, unless physical distancing is possible.

The only constant through the pandemic has been change, which has added to the challenge for each of us as City employees and individuals in managing the disruptions to our daily lives and routines. Thank you for your continued attention and understanding as we continue to communicate the latest information.

## **Spokane COVID-19 Testing Sites**

Drive-up and walk-up [COVID-19 testing sites](#) are open to the community. These testing sites offer free testing and are open to anyone who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or has recently been exposed to someone with COVID-19.

### **Spokane Falls Community College**

3410 W. Whistalks Way, Spokane, WA 99224

**Hours:** Mon, Tue, Thur, & Fri, 8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

[Appointments are recommended](#) but not required.

### **CHAS Health Denny Murphy Clinic**

1001 W. Second Ave., Spokane, WA 99201

**Hours:** Tue – Fri, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sat, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

[Appointments are recommended](#) but not required.

### **Mead Union Stadium**

12509 N. Market St., Mead, WA 99021

**Hours:** Wed – Fri, 4 – 8 p.m.

Sat & Sun, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

[Appointments are recommended](#) but not required.

As of January 15, 2022, your insurance will cover the purchase of at-home COVID-19 tests. Make sure to keep your receipt! If you are a **Premera member** [click here to be reimbursed](#). If you are a **Kaiser member** [login to the Member Portal](#) then click on COVID-19 Resources and “Submit a Claim.”

### **More Information to Assist You**

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

- [Building Social Bonds](#)  
Strong, healthy relationships are important throughout your life. Your social ties with family members, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and others impact your mental, emotional, and even physical wellbeing.
- [Social Support: Tap This Tool To Beat Stress](#)  
Remember that the goal of building your social support network is to reduce your stress level, not add to it. Watch for situations that seem to drain your energy. Similarly, steer clear of people involved in unhealthy behaviors.

### **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](#) 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.