

The City of Spokane

Weekly News Update for April 12

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.

Give Your Way with Spokane Gives

Give Your Way by signing up for a volunteer project today! These projects still need volunteers.

- **Spokane Gives Blood Drive with Vitalant**: Blood supplies are critically low. Donate this April to help build our local healthcare system's capacity to save lives! Donors will receive a \$1 off coupon for food trucks affiliated with [Greater Spokane Food Truck Association](#).
- **Spring Cleaning with Free Rein Therapeutic Riding**: Help with spring cleaning at the barn! Tasks include raking, minor fence repairs, weed whacking, and more. – **Saturday, April 16, 2:30 – 5:30 p.m.**
- **Downtown Graffiti Cleanup**: The Office of Neighborhood Services needs volunteers for graffiti cleanup in our downtown core. Please wear clothes that you don't mind getting paint on. Paint equipment will be supplied. – **Thursday, April 28, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

Visit VolunteerSpokane.org for more volunteer opportunities!

Continuing to monitor COVID in the workplace

As data continues to show a significant decline in positive COVID case trends in our area, the City of Spokane will be phasing back into a work environment that more closely resembles pre-pandemic operations at City Hall and other City facilities. We will continue to monitor the CDC's COVID-19 Community Level and will make adjustments as necessary. Additional guidance from the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries and potentially the Washington State Department of Health could cause future adjustments to the following guidelines.

- As previously communicated on March 12, 2022, City employees and visitors are no longer required to wear masks inside City facilities.
- Social distancing is no longer a basic requirement for workplaces. It is still encouraged where practicable at meetings and social gatherings.
- Departments are encouraged to conduct group meetings using hybrid formats to include virtual/telephonic options; be cognizant of the number of people in attendance for face-to-face meetings and training; and where practicable, hold face-to-face meetings and training in open, well-ventilated spaces.
- Sneeze guards or plexiglass barriers can remain in place.

- Employees and visitors who prefer to wear a mask are encouraged to continue that practice. We will continue to respect the individual needs, comforts, and choices of our team members. As a reminder, there will be zero tolerance for any incidents of hazing, shaming, or other harassment related to mask wearing.
- As always, continue to practice safe health hygiene and proper safety measures. This includes, but is not limited to: monitoring your health, staying home if you are sick, washing your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds, using hand sanitizer, and practicing proper safety etiquette when sneezing or coughing.
- Should an employee require a medical accommodation for COVID-related concerns, they should contact Human Resources.

Riverfront Market

The Riverfront Market is back! Head down to the Pavilion for the Riverfront Market. The market is every Wednesday from 12 to 7 p.m. and features local artisans, food vendors, musicians, and service providers. For a full list of vendors visit Riverfront's website.



COVID-19 Testing

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 – Sun, 8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

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

Ashley HomeStore Outlet parking lot

13414 E. Sprague Ave., Spokane Valley, WA 99216

Hours: Mon – Fri, 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

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

Mead Union Stadium

12509 N. Market St., Mead, WA 99021

(testing trailer is in the parking lot)

Hours: Sat & Sun, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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

CHAS Health Denny Murphy Clinic parking lot

1001 W. Second Ave., Spokane, WA 99201

Hours: Tue – Fri, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sat, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

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

The Say Yes! COVID Test portal now allows up to two orders per household every month, while supplies last. Visit SayYesCovidHomeTest.org to order.

More Information to Assist You

Here are some more resources from our Employee Assistance Program:

- [Suicide Prevention in the Workplace](#)
Suicide is a topic that must be brought out of the darkness to save lives. Many organizations are working to dispel myths and bring hope and light to the subject so that those in crisis feel comfortable seeking help to recover and reengage fully in life.

- [Five Action Steps for Helping Someone in Emotional Pain](#)

Suicide affects people of all ages, genders, races, and ethnicities. It is complicated and tragic, but it can be preventable. Knowing the warning signs for suicide and how to get help can help save lives.

[Click here](#) for five steps you can take to help someone in emotional pain.

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.