
From: NEWTON Nancy
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 3:35 PM
To: *Springfield Employees
Subject: Updated COVID precaution measures

Hello everyone,

We continue to track COVID-19 and reflect on what it means for our organization. Our decision-making remains focused on your health and the health of the community we serve.

Unfortunately, more infectious variants of COVID-19 are on the rise. Our local transmission rate is now considered substantial to high based on Oregon Health Authority (OHA) data. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and OHA are both recommending that community members return to masking up indoors when not at home.

Beginning tomorrow, July 30:

- **City staff will need to wear a face covering indoors or in shared spaces such as breakrooms, hallways and vehicles regardless of vaccination status.**
- **City staff are not required to wear face masks when alone in their offices, cubicles, or vehicles.**
- **Eugene Springfield Fire personnel will continue to follow department in station specific guidance.**
- **Visitors to our buildings will need to wear face coverings regardless of vaccination status. Facilities will be placing informational signs at the entrances to our public offices.**

I want to acknowledge that this pandemic and reports of new cases is stirring many emotions. Take time to do a self-check and notice how you are feeling. It can be frustrating to feel like we have taken a step back when we've come so far. It can also be scary as we navigate how to best protect our health and the health of others. Please, be kind to yourself and one another. We are all navigating this together and I want you to know your feelings are valid. Our upcoming InForums this August will provide an update on local COVID-19 efforts and we'll be having another InForum dedicated to mental health.

COVID-19 remains a risk throughout our community. Many in the health care field practice what's called "universal precaution" where they take precautions assuming the individual they are interacting with is a risk. This approach is very aligned with practices that will help us reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

Please continue to wash your hands often, maintain physical distance, sanitize shared spaces before and after use, stay home if sick, and please consider getting a vaccine if you haven't already. As a reminder, I've authorized \$250 deposited into each employee's HRA account prior to the end of 2021 – provided you show proof of vaccine to your supervisor by August 31.

Vaccination remains your best protection by significantly lessening symptoms if you are infected. It is a critical step in reducing the severity of COVID-19 in our community.

You can find information about the local case and vaccination rates at www.LaneCountyOR.gov/coronavirus

Please continue to take care of yourself and each other.

Nancy Newton (she/her)

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