



PHX CONNECT

The Weekly Connection Newsletter for City of Phoenix Employees • December 22, 2020

Teleworking Update

As mentioned in an Employee Notification sent on Friday, Dec. 18, COVID-19 cases are on the rise. The positivity rate among city workers has doubled since the beginning of October. As a result, **the temporary telework program is again being extended through at least March 22, 2021.**

We will also continue to follow the benchmarks for reopening the city's Parks and Recreation facilities, as well as the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine. We are hopeful that conditions will improve significantly by spring, however, we will continue to monitor the situation as we move closer to that date.

Telework has been and continues to be at the discretion of city management. While most city employees have jobs that cannot be done remotely, or through telework, this arrangement benefits everyone by allowing for greater physical distancing in city facilities.

As each department continues to assess their operational needs, some teleworkers may need to return to their worksite one or more days per week, based on those operational needs. If you are teleworking and your role fits into this category, you will be notified by your department after approval by the City Manager's Office and Human Resources.

Additional telework resources and guidance are available on the [HR Employee Health Updates website](#). Please contact your HR liaison with any additional questions.

News & Updates

COVID-19 Testing Opportunities: City of Phoenix employees have access to resources like **priority testing** to help navigate this pandemic, however, we want to make you aware that some of these options have changed.



Banner site at the Arizona State Fairgrounds: This location has temporarily closed.

City of Phoenix Employee Healthcare Clinic: COVID-19 live-virus testing for employees, regardless of health plan, is available weekdays 7 a.m. - 5:40 p.m., **by appointment only**. The clinic is located at 1 N. Central Ave. **Employees can schedule an appointment** and select "COVID Virus Testing – City of Phoenix." **NEW: You must specify whether or not you are symptomatic.** This is a walk-in test site (not a drive-thru).

Washington Activity Center (WAC) Test Site: The Washington Activity Center is open to employees and members of their households. Schedule an appointment by calling 602-534-0693. Testing is available weekdays from 7 a.m. - 3:50 p.m. This is a walk-in test site (not a drive-thru).

Please do not visit the WAC if you are experiencing any symptoms of illness. Instead, you should contact your healthcare provider or utilize the employee healthcare clinic testing option.

Financial Help for City Employees: The city of Phoenix is committed to helping its employees experiencing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. If you would like to see if you qualify for financial assistance through the city of Phoenix's COVID-19 HOPE Fund, **[start here](#)**.

Employee Assistance: We realize the uncertainty of the COVID-19 health emergency can create feelings of anxiety. Help is available through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). City employees *and everyone in their household* have access to **[ComPsych Guidance Resources](#)** for free support, information, and services. Please call **602-534-5433**.

City Manager's Holiday Message to Employees

It is safe to say that this holiday season is unlike any other the city of Phoenix has experienced. In a more traditional year, we would gather for a citywide holiday party. Since we cannot do that safely right now, I invite you to spend that time taking a look at our [year in review video](#). It is an inspiring overview of our city teamwork.

When we look back on this year, it is humbling to consider the significance of how well city employees, each of you, responded to one of the most momentous challenges to face our city in the last century.

Most dramatically, thousands of our employees were asked to work from home beginning in March. Even so, the vast majority of city jobs cannot be performed remotely, so we also modified operations, including wearing face coverings and physically distancing from each other and our customers, adding Plexiglass barriers, touchless appliances and wearing PPE.

In these demanding times it can be easy to overlook how much we have accomplished. The [video](#) is an inspiring overview of how we continue safely serving our residents.

While it would be impossible to include every employee, department, and all contributions made this year, this video celebrates all of us as a team for the incredible innovation, resiliency and preparedness you have shown. I want to especially thank Assistant City Manager Milton Dohoney for his leadership of the citywide team that continually coordinates efforts to keep our services on track.

Please take the time to appreciate how you contributed to the city of Phoenix during this eventful year.

The work we do brings great value to the city of Phoenix and the residents we serve. I am grateful for your service.

Wishing you a healthy and happy holiday season.

-Ed

Virtual Blood Drive

Because of You, Life Doesn't Stop

Many blood drives have been cancelled, so your individual donations matter now more than ever. In times when we can't be together in person, we can still be together in support of our community.

The city of Phoenix virtual blood drive continues through Jan. 9, 2021.

To donate, [schedule an appointment](#) and enter your zip code to find a blood donation center near you.

Helpful reminder: Eat a healthy meal and drink water before your appointment!

Vitalant is a nonprofit organization that collects blood from volunteer donors and provides blood, blood products and services across the United States. All blood and platelet donations are tested for COVID-19 antibodies. Vitalant will let you know your results, and how you can help patients fighting the virus.

Leave Donations

The following employees are accepting leave donations. Use eCHRIS to make your donation:

- ◆ Fernando Rosas, Public Works
- ◆ Aamir Muhammad, Police
- ◆ George Campa, Water Services

To see a complete list of all employees currently accepting leave donations, [visit this web page](#).

Happy Holidays

Just a [quick video to say Happy Holidays from the PHXTV crew](#).

Enjoy!

