

## Getting the COVID-19 Vaccine

Details on the opportunities for city employees to get the COVID-19 vaccine are explained to the right of this article. But many city employees have already received their vaccine. Here's just one testimony of why they chose to get vaccinated:



*"I think that everybody needs to work together to overcome this virus and taking it seriously is one of the first steps..."*

*Christopher Long, Phoenix Police*



## COVID-19 News

**COVID-19 Vaccine:** The COVID-19 vaccine is one of the best ways that we can promote a healthy and safe community. The city is following the [Maricopa County Vaccine Prioritization](#) plan. Employees currently eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at Maricopa County sites, including the city of Phoenix distribution site, are the **Phase 1a** and **Priority Phase 1b** populations only. These include:

- ◆ Healthcare/Emergency Medical Services Staff
- ◆ Law Enforcement/Protective Services Staff
- ◆ K-12 School Staff/Childcare Staff
- ◆ Age 65+



**Vaccine Incentive:** All city employees are now eligible to receive a **Vaccine Safety Award of \$75** when they submit a completed vaccine card showing the dates of all required doses for the type of vaccine received. COVID-19 vaccines received at a city of Phoenix distribution site or any other location are eligible for the award. All employees who have already received the vaccine, as well as those who receive it through calendar year 2021, are eligible for the award. [More information about this can be found in the latest City Manager podcast](#) where City Manager Ed Zuercher talks to three employees who share why they decided to get the vaccine.

**COVID-19 Testing Opportunities:** City of Phoenix employees have access to resources like **priority testing**:

- ◆ **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." This is a walk-in test site only.
- ◆ **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 only.

## Happy 140th Birthday Phoenix



On Feb. 25, 1881, Phoenix was incorporated as a city with a mayor and four council members. The city's population totaled 2,500 residents. Washington Street was the city's main road and only spanned 100-feet wide. To mark the occasion, Mayor Kate Gallego welcomed former Phoenix Mayors to Historic City Hall on Feb. 24 for a "Phoenix Then & Now," celebration!

## COVID Vaccine Myth Busters

To keep you informed with accurate information about the COVID-19 vaccine, here's some help from Heather M. Ross, PhD, DNP, professor at ASU and special advisor to Mayor Gallego's office:

**MYTH:** *COVID vaccines can cause infertility.*

**FACT:** Although the placenta in pregnancy has spike proteins similar to how the coronavirus has spike proteins, the two types of spike proteins share very little genetic information in common. The coronavirus spike proteins targeted by the available COVID-19 vaccines do not overlap with placenta spike proteins. Research shows that COVID-19 vaccines do not attack the placenta to cause infertility.

**NOTE:** Individuals are encouraged to discuss COVID vaccine concerns with their primary care physician who is most familiar with their personal health history.

## New Travel Guidance and City COVID Leave Usage

Effective immediately, employees are subject to following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [guidance](#) on self-quarantine after travel outside of Arizona in compliance with the city's [COVID-19 leave](#) policy.

### Self-Quarantine Following Out-of-State Travel

According to the [CDC](#), traveling may expose you and any travel companions to COVID-19. Although you may feel well and not have any symptoms, you can still spread the virus to others after you travel. To minimize the risks of spreading the virus to others:

- ◆ Employees can use the [free COVID-19 testing for employees](#) to get tested within three to five days after travel AND stay home and self-quarantine for a full seven days after travel, even if you tested negative.
- ◆ If your test is positive, isolate yourself to protect others from getting infected.
- ◆ If you don't get tested, stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.
- ◆ Avoid being around people who are at increased risk for severe illness for 14 days.

\*Important: These guidelines do not apply to employees who have received both doses of the COVID vaccine and more than two weeks has passed since the second dose was received.

For more information about impacts to city paid [COVID-19 leave](#) and the new guidance for voluntary travel, please see the [HR COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions](#) or contact your HR liaison.





The Street Transportation Department is creating an Active Transportation Plan to update the Bicycle Master Plan. To celebrate the kick-off of the planning process, the Street Transportation Department is offering a free virtual seminar for all city of Phoenix employees. Join us to learn about best practices in active transportation from professionals in peer cities. Please confirm your plans to attend the virtual seminar with your manager. To learn more about the speakers and the seminar, visit the [event registration site](#).

## Job of the Week

### Heavy Equipment Mechanic

**\$24.50 - \$29.89/hour**

This position repairs and maintains fire equipment, heavy diesel trucks, refuse collection and earth-moving and related construction equipment, including various types of hydraulic components, performing regular preventative maintenance schedules and safety inspections; test driving vehicles, record repairs and services on work orders. Some positions may be required to provide emergency response during severe weather (floods, storms, etc.). Currently there are vacancies in the Public Works Department. Requirements: Five years of experience as a skilled automotive mechanic, including one year as a skilled heavy equipment mechanic with experience in the repair and maintenance of heavy duty construction, refuse collecting, firefighting equipment, hydraulic systems and aerial equipment or completion of a recognized heavy equipment manufacturer's mechanic apprenticeship program.

[Check out the latest job openings here.](#)

[Check out the entire job database here.](#)

## Leave Donations

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

- ◆ Rhonda Pasley, Police
- ◆ Francisco Pina, Public Works
- ◆ Enrique Villela, Public Works

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

### Did you Know?

In addition to regular on-site Health Coaching, the Wellness Council of Arizona will be offering virtual health coaching via Skype.

Do you want to talk to someone face-to-face for professional advice and support to meet your needs?

Topics like...Nutrition, Stress Management, Weight Loss, Self-Care, Sports, Wellness and Lifestyle Disease Management will be addressed.

Visit the [Wellness Council](#) for more information or to schedule your free confidential session.

### Save the Date for Retirement Planning for Women: March 4, 11:30 a.m.—1 p.m.

The city of Phoenix Benefits and Wellness Division, along with Nationwide Retirement Solutions, presents "Women in Retirement," a webinar about the unique challenges women face during retirement planning:

- ◆ A longer life expectancy than men
- ◆ Balancing work with caregiving for children and/or other relatives
- ◆ A higher rate of filing for Social Security Benefits before reaching full retirement age

Register at [phoenixdcp.com](http://phoenixdcp.com) and the webinar link will be emailed to you.

# Employee Memorial Virtual Ceremony



You are invited to join us for the *City of Phoenix Employee Memorial Ceremony*, honoring our colleagues who lost their lives while performing their duties in 2020.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's ceremony will be a virtual presentation, hosted from the Employee Memorial wall adjacent to City Hall. This does not remove the honor or commemoration that the city will dedicate to the departed employees and their families. Employees who we've lost to COVID-19 will also be remembered.

The Employee Memorial Virtual Ceremony takes place Thursday, Feb.25, at 10 a.m. Log into [YouTube \(@CityofPHoenixAZ\)](#) to view the

event online. Following the ceremony, employees are encouraged to visit the memorial wall anytime to remember our departed colleagues. To date, the memorial wall includes the names of 88 employees who lost their lives in the course of their duties. For more information about the ceremony, contact Human Resources at 602-495-5700.

## Watch PHXTV to Learn the Meaning of the Employee Memorial

In addition to regular programming, PHXTV will feature *The Meaning of the Employee Memorial* this week. To learn background information on why the city of Phoenix has an Employee Memorial Wall, who created it and how it came about, view the video on PHXTV and on the city's [YouTube](#) channel.



## Employee Bus Card Renewal Deadline

Changes are coming to the city of Phoenix Bus Card Program and employees are encouraged to act now to avoid an interruption in service. Employees will still be able to enjoy free bus and light rail service; however, the current bus/light rail cards expire March 31. **The bus cards will no longer automatically renew.** To receive a new card, employees must [submit a request](#) for 2021 Platinum Bus Cards in eCHRIS by Feb. 28.



## Free Wellness Screenings

Fit4Phoenix is pleased to offer free wellness screenings to all city employees and spouses enrolled in a city medical plan. To see locations and times for the free exams, visit the appropriate screening link below:

### [Prostate cancer screenings](#)

**Prostate On-Site Project (POP) appointments:**

**480-964-3013 or 1-800-828-6139**

**Aviation:** 2485 E. Buckeye Rd.

Tuesday, March 9

**Downtown Phoenix:** 2nd Ave. & Adams St.

Thursday, March 11

Wednesday, March 24

### [3-D Mammograms and/or bone density screenings](#)

**Assured Imaging appointments: 1-888-233-6121**

**Downtown Phoenix:** 2nd Ave. and Adams St.

March 16, 17, 18 and 23

**Aviation:** 2485 E. Buckeye Rd.

March 24

\*Women should be 40 and older for a mammogram screening and 50 and older for a bone density screening.