

**September Update**

**VPS COVID Case Updates**

VPS is now providing daily staff communications regarding cases, so VEA will no longer list the data in the member updates. Please email your building COVID Coordinator with a cc to VEA if there are any concerns regarding the reported data. VEA will continue to provide the weekly case counts for Clark County (to the right). VPS is also providing public access to a [VPS COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#).

**CCPH COVID Updates**

Since August 4, 2022 CCPH has reported:  
**Sept 22: 75.3 cases per 100,000 people**  
 Sept 15: 77.3 cases per 100,000  
 Aug 25: 88.9 cases per 100,000 people  
 Aug 11: 121.2 cases per 100,000  
 Aug 4: 153.2 cases per 100,000

**COVID-19 Updates**

VEA and VPS reached agreement on a [COVID MOU for 2022-23](#). VEA continues regular meetings with Dr. Melnick from Clark County Public Health around School safety and the evolving epidemic. Their overall response to a COVID-19 outbreak should look the same as Spring 2022 (reporting them to CCPH and considering any further CCPH guidance regarding classroom/building closure, if applicable). Per DOH guidance, it is suggested to continue to mask during outbreaks and to test for COVID. Governor Inslee announced the end of the state of emergency provisions effective October 31, 2022.

**Navigating Student Loan Forgiveness**



October 6 – Navigating the Student Loan Forgiveness Quagmire with NEA Member Benefits. [Register](#) to attend this online session from 4:30-5:30 pm. New provisions may allow previously ineligible plans to qualify. Limited time to apply.

**It is never too soon to plan for retirement!**

When people talk about retirement, there is often a wide range of emotions. One thing is for certain: the more planning you do, the better chance of having the retirement of your dreams. Whether you are one, five, or more than twenty years from retiring, it is never too early nor too late to begin that planning. Learn what you can do now to prepare for the next chapter of your life!



This fall, the WEA-Retired seminar team is once again offering its full pre-retirement seminar via Zoom. This link will take you to the registration form: <https://vancouverea.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/2022-23-fall-VN.pdf>

Questions? Contact our WEA-Retired Liaison Sandy Kokko at [skokko1946@gmail.com](mailto:skokko1946@gmail.com).

**ALL Member Social**

ALL members are welcome to join us at Heathen Brewing on October 7<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 to 5:30. This event will be hosted open-house style, so come when you can and stay as long as you like! VEA will provide appetizers and will treat you to your first beverage. Join with other VEA members, **especially our newest members**, for great conversation, games, and door prizes! Please sign up for planning purposes via [this SurveyMonkey link](#).



**Text VEAINFO to 833-258-6815**

TextMarks, the former texting platform used by VEA for member communications has been discontinued. WEA has assisted us in transferring all participants to the new MessageMedia format. A text message was dispatched August 25 at 8:54 am. **If you did not receive the message, you are not yet enrolled.**

Please text VEAINFO to 833-258-6815 to join! VEA will keep messages to a minimum, including bargaining updates and other time-sensitive information for VEA members.



**Columbia Sportswear Employee Store Pass**

VEA members and up to four additional guests can save up to 50% off the retail price of items at the Columbia Sportswear Employee Store now through Oct 2, 2022. Hours are Mon-Friday 10 am – 8 pm. Sat-Sun 9 am – 8 pm. If required in this jurisdiction, shoppers are required to bring your own face coverings to wear while shopping. You will need the flier from this post, your employee badge or pay stub and a valid photo ID at check in. #MembershipMatters [Click Here](#) for the flier.

**September 15 to October 15: Hispanic Heritage Month**

Learn more and share with others using resources from:  
 \*[NEA Tools and Tips](#) for National Hispanic Heritage Month  
 \*[National Hispanic Heritage Month](#) and/or  
 \*National Institutes of Health: [Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion](#)

