



**COMMANDER, NAVY REGION HAWAII/
NAVAL SURFACE GROUP
MIDDLE PACIFIC**

**COVID-19 AWARENESS
February 10, 2021**



COVID-19 Awareness – February 10, 2021

Region and MIDPAC Ohana,

DoD's top priority during this pandemic is to protect service members, civilian employees and families in order to safeguard national security capabilities. During the past year with COVID-19, we have formulated response plans, implemented mitigation measures, and sustained these measures. Now we are in the initial phases of administering vaccines. All of this amazing work has been conducted as we remained steadfast to our core mission – supporting the fleet in defense of our nation.

In Hawaii, our health care professionals and planners have been hard at work to accelerate efforts to get shots into arms. We are making significant progress, with vaccines at Bloch Arena going to our active duty and civilian work force; PMRF received their first round of vaccines Tuesday. The vaccine is voluntary, but I strongly encourage you to receive the vaccination if it is offered to you. It has proven to be safe and is our first line of defense in combatting the spread of the virus.

Although vaccines are being delivered, our work continues to carry the campaign against COVID-19 to conclusion. Last week, Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III signed a memo directing that all individuals on military installations and all individuals performing official duties on behalf of DOD from any location other than the individual's home, including outdoor shared spaces, wear face coverings as outlined in Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines.

Under this memo, we are required to wear masks continuously while on military installations except: (1) when you are alone in an office with floor-to-ceiling walls with a closed door; (2) for brief periods of time when eating and drinking while still following social distancing requirements; (3) when the mask is required to be lowered briefly for identification or security purposes; and (4) when necessary to reasonably accommodate someone with a disability.

Face coverings have been one of those mitigations that have been proven to work in limiting the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and through this memo, Secretary Austin is calling on each of us to strictly continue their use. Even though we would all like to go back to "business as usual," our most responsible course of action is to stay with the mitigation measures that we know make a difference – social distancing, face coverings, personal hygiene...and smart choices.

As always, take care of yourselves and your families.

V/r, Robb

RDML Robb Chadwick, USN

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii/
Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific
