



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

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



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Region and MIDPAC Ohana,

The news continues to improve in our year-long battle against COVID-19. In my last update, I shared that the City and County of Honolulu had moved to Tier 3 in their strategy to reopen the island of Oahu, with optimism that Department of Defense facilities would transition soon to Health Protection Condition (HPCON) BRAVO. This shift took place shortly after that update, and now both JBPHH and PMRF are operating at HPCON BRAVO+.

While this transition is a very positive sign, it only shows that COVID-19 transmission risk has decreased, not disappeared. So what does this mean? Many guidelines in effect under HPCON CHARLIE are still in effect. For example, we still need to avoid unnecessary contact with others, such as shaking hands and hugging, and the requirements to wear masks, maintain physical distances and follow comprehensive hygiene and sanitation procedures are still with us. But BRAVO+ allows more opportunities for interaction. We are now authorized to engage in indoor or outdoor recreational and social gatherings of ten or fewer people.

Another recent positive development showing our progress in fighting COVID-19 came last week when COMPACFLT released revised guidance for service members stationed in or arriving to Hawaii following off-island travel. Under these new guidelines, a traveler who has fully recovered from a COVID-19 infection in the last three months OR has completed a COVID-19 immunization series more than 14 days before arriving in the state, only has to meet state ROM requirements, with no additional DoD ROM. To meet this eligibility requirement, the traveler must also receive a COVID-19 viral test administered within 72 hours of the departure for Hawaii. I encourage you to research the guidelines before you travel and ensure you understand requirements.

The reasons for these changes? Two distinct factors are key: smart choices by you, and a robust vaccination program taking protection to the next level. Over the past several months, you chose to embrace the physical mitigation measures that have become second nature. When you leave your home or work, you make sure you have your face covering before you walk out the door; maybe you keep backups in your car. Now, when you meet a friend or shipmate, you do a polite elbow bump or throw a shaka. These are little things, but these smart choices have made a difference.

Smart choices have gotten us to where we are today, and vaccinations will make the ultimate difference in stopping the spread of COVID-19. A large percentage of you have received at least one dose of the vaccine, and many of you are fully immunized. As the flow of vaccines continues, it is

becoming easier to get members of your family vaccinated. The percentage of members of our ohana accepting the vaccine is strong, and I encourage you and your family to take advantage of the opportunity to get vaccinated.

I know we all want to get back to normal as quickly as possible, but we need to be patient and stay the course. Our leadership to the highest level is committed to the safety of our ohana, and safety means caution. It is important for us all to get this right, so we get to the day when normal truly is normal.

As always, take care of yourselves and your families.

V/r, Robb

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Stay up-to-date on the latest developments at the following links (Copy & Paste):

- CNRH COVID-19 webpage: <https://www.cnrc.navy.mil/regions/cnrh/om/coronavirus-disease2019.html> - CNRH Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NavyRegionHawaii/>