



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

**COVID-19 AWARENESS  
January 13, 2021**



---

**COVID-19 Awareness – January 13, 2021**

Region and MIDPAC Ohana,

We are clearly moving into the next campaign against the pandemic, as COVID-19 vaccines are being administered in initial phases to tiered populations within our military and civilian populations. As recently as Monday, more than 2,600 doses of the vaccine have been administered on Oahu. Our planning team on Kauai is currently developing their plans to receive and distribute the vaccine to active duty and civilians employees at PMRF.

Outside of our fences, civilian health care providers are following guidelines similar to those we have adopted to vaccinate the general public, and vaccines are being delivered across the state. There are a lot of logistical challenges associated with the shipping of the vaccines, but today we are on the right track.

Progress in the distribution of vaccinations is encouraging, but we need to remember that it may still take as long as a few months before the vaccine is widely available. Rest assured, though, that time is coming. When vaccines are ready and offered to you, each of you will need to be ready to make your decision about receiving this voluntary vaccination. I strongly encourage you to make your decision based on the facts. Plenty of resources are available to help in your research, and many of them can be found on the Region's COVID-19 Information and Resources page (the web addresses are at the end of this update). I believe that if you do your research, you will conclude that the vaccine is safe and our most effective weapon in combatting the COVID-19 virus. I received my second dose of the vaccine yesterday, and I am confident that I made the right decision for me.

It is easy to view the vaccine as the beginning of the end of the pandemic. While this may ultimately be the case, this is not the time for us to relax our guard. For the past several months, we have relied on measures to mitigate the impact of the virus to our workforce, our families and our community. We have gotten pretty good at teleworking, TEAMs meetings and telephone conferences. Six feet of social distancing no longer feels unusual, and we have adapted to wearing face coverings. We must continue to use these measures, even after vaccines have been widely distributed.

I could not be prouder of the manner in which you have continued to support our mission during a time of unprecedented challenge. We need to keep doing in 2021 what we have been doing for most of 2020 – maintaining social distancing, avoiding crowds, keeping our home and work areas sanitized, frequently washing our hands, and responsibly wearing face coverings. These are the types of smart choices that protect our safety and the safety of our shipmates, our loved ones, and our communities.

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

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

- CNRH COVID-19 webpage: <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrh/om/coronavirus-disease-2019.html>

- CNRH Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NavyRegionHawaii/>

Ensure your family's readiness for a severe weather and develop your own response plan for hurricane season, and have plans in place for addressing a disaster: <https://www.ready.navy.mil/> and

<https://www.ready.gov/september>

---

---