



COMMANDER, NAVY REGION HAWAII/
NAVAL SURFACE GROUP
MIDDLE PACIFIC

COVID-19 AWARENESS
OCT 15, 2020



COVID-19 Awareness – Oct. 15, 2020

Region and MIDPAC Ohana,

This week we celebrated the 245th birthday of our Navy, but without the typical ceremonies and activities to honor the Navy's significant contribution to our nation's story. Nevertheless, I was still an opportunity to reflect on the rich 245 year history of our great Navy. While we are limited by the obvious impact of COVID-19 today, this is not the first pandemic in our history.

Shortly before the end of World War I, the 1918 flu pandemic, also known as the Spanish flu, struck. At its peak, 121,225 Navy and Marine patients were admitted to Navy medical facilities. Of these patients, 4,158 died of the virus, and sick patients spent over one million sick days in Navy medical facilities worldwide. Globally the pandemic claimed more than 50 million lives, more than the total combined deaths from four years of world war.

Fast-forward 102 years to today, and we are again in the midst of a global pandemic. More than 10,000 of our Sailors world-wide have been infected with COVID-19. These numbers contrast greatly with those of the 1918 pandemic, but we cannot afford to become complacent. Since our last update, we continue to see critical reminders that the COVID-19 virus knows no boundaries. Some senior leaders of our country have tested positive and separately, some of our senior military leaders may have been exposed to the virus. While medical technology and public health measures have greatly improved over the past century, we should take these warnings seriously - anyone can be impacted by COVID-19.

Our situation in Hawaii remains fluid, and Hawaii's pre-travel testing program for COVID-19 is scheduled to start Oct. 15, allowing non-DON travelers who have received a negative test result within 72 hours of their flight to avoid the mandatory 14-day quarantine. This may benefit the state's tourist trade and reduce the impact on returning residents, **but this change does not apply to DOD active duty personnel, civilians and contractors. The long-standing policy of 14-day Restriction of Movement (ROM) will remain in place for DOD personnel arriving in Hawaii until any changes are announced by USINDOPACOM and COMPACFLT.**

As a reminder, our CNRH/MIDPAC COVID-19 Update and Resources page continues to be a great asset for you to find the most up-to-date information. This week we have added a list of Frequently Asked Questions compiled by the Department of the Navy's Office of Civilian Human Resources that covers a wide range of topics. You can find a link to our update page below.

As always, take care of yourselves and your families.

V/r, Robb

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