



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

**COVID-19 AWARENESS  
June 17, 2020**



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Region and MIDPAC Ohana,

On Tuesday morning, I directed that Navy Region Hawaii staff, installations and tenant commands and activities on those installations to transition from Health Protection Condition (HPCON) Charlie to HPCON Bravo Plus. This marks the first change in HPCON since March 25, and it's the first relaxation of HPCON since the beginning of the operations impacted by COVID-19.

Will we see dramatic changes in the way business is carried out in our region? No, not really. Many of the mitigation measures that have become part of our day-to-day lives will remain in effect. The size of gatherings is still limited to ten people, with social distancing and PPE measure in place as needed. The importance of regular and thorough hygiene and sanitation procedures is still with us. Telework continues to be a part of the way we do business.

So if all these restrictions remain in place, then what does the change to HPCON Bravo Plus mean? More details to follow, but it essentially means that we now have more latitude to continue the methodical and phased reduction in COVID-19 related restrictions, while we restore installation services and reset installation operations. In other words, this is how we continue towards the "new normal."

Our move to HPCON Bravo Plus is attributable to moderate community transmission of COVID-19 throughout the region. You've done a great job so far in combatting this unseen foe. But even as this change in HPCON gives us more options in the way we do business, the reports of increasing numbers of cases in Hawaii is a reminder of the need to remain vigilant. Experts say that the second wave is not a matter of if, but when. Fortunately, we have experience in flexing our operations and now have the structure in place to heighten our HPCON if it becomes necessary.

I ask you to stay prepared. Some of the preparations you would make in anticipation of a hurricane will serve you well in your preparations for a resurgence in COVID-19. Make sure you have food, medicine and other essential items to last you and your family for at least two weeks. Keep ready to transition operations back to minimal manning. Ensure you fully understand restrictions that, while they may have been relaxed in the civilian community, remain in effect for us.

As an example, the state of Hawaii has recently relaxed restrictions on inter-island travel. While this change is welcome, we need to be aware that the relaxation does not apply to inter-island travelers heading to the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF). A resident of any other Hawaiian island can travel to Kauai without restriction, but non-residents of PMRF will not be given access to the base until they complete a 14-day Restriction of Movement (ROM). Base residents will also be required to complete the 14-day ROM, but may do so in their on-base homes. As always, your chain of command is an excellent resource, as are the CNRH and

installation Facebook pages.

Our campaign against COVID-19 has been, and will continue to be a marathon. You have done a superb job to date, and I ask you to continue your innovative approaches to dealing with this unique challenge. I encourage you to share your ideas, concerns, lessons, or questions as they relate to our current campaign.

Please continue to take care of yourselves and your families.

V/r, Robb

RDML Robb Chadwick, USN  
Commander, Navy Region Hawaii/  
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