



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

**COVID-19 AWARENESS
NOV 18, 2020**



COVID-19 Awareness – Nov. 18, 2020

Region and MIDPAC Ohana,

As has been the case so many times since we began operations during COVID-19, we continue to see instances of good news contrasted with bad news. In recent days we have seen encouraging reports that two different vaccines have shown great promise. Vaccination will become our primary weapon in combatting COVID-19, but developing vaccines takes time. While the signs are promising, it will be a while before we can expect to see full-scale production and distribution, and the number of new cases on the mainland have continued to spike.

Here in Hawaii, we have seen the number of new cases stabilize once again. Hawaii's governor issued a proclamation earlier this week that includes the requirement for all persons to wear a face covering over their nose and mouth when in public; some exceptions apply. We are not facing the pronounced spike that other states have experienced, but we have not seen the reduction in numbers of new cases and positive test results required before Oahu officials would move from Tier 2 to Tier 3 on their reopening plan. This means that, in all likelihood, gatherings for Thanksgiving will be limited to no more than five people. While we would like to be able to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday in a more traditional manner, staying out of situations involving large groups of people is one of the most basic weapons in our arsenal for combatting this unseen, unrelenting foe.

Our leaders are working hard to maintain a safe environment for all members of our military Ohana while continuing to ensure mission readiness. COMPACFLT recently issued a GENADMIN message that provided some additional guidance on official and unofficial travel to and from Hawaii, including leave and liberty for military personnel. One noteworthy clarification is that leave and liberty requiring air travel is considered to be outside the local area, and travel outside the local area puts into play the requirement for a 14-day ROM period. This includes leave travelers from Oahu to Kauai, who will not be able to enter PMRF – even if you have CAC access – before completing the 14-day ROM requirement.

As we move towards the holidays, I ask you to factor in necessary cautions as you make plans: limit the size of your celebrations and explore other options like virtual get-togethers. The CDC offers several great alternatives that you can consider here - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>. In the meantime, continue with those measures we have come to rely on – face coverings, social distancing, personal hygiene and above all, making responsible decisions.

As always, thanks for all your great work and take care of yourselves and your families.

V/r, Robb

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