



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

**COVID-19 AWARENESS
OCT. 21, 2020**



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Region and MIDPAC Ohana,

Here in Hawaii, we have seen many ups and downs in the number of COVID-19 cases reported daily. A few weeks ago, the state reported triple-digit numbers of new cases on a regular basis, prompting increased restrictions on the operation of certain businesses, and limits on the size and types of gatherings. Conditions appear to have stabilized, as the average number of new cases in Hawaii is currently averaging in the mid-60s.

On Oahu, these smaller numbers meet the threshold established by the City and County of Honolulu to begin transition from Tier One to Tier Two of the island's reopening plan as soon as Oct. 22. While many of the current restrictions imposed under Tier 1 would stay in place in Tier 2 of the plan, some significant changes will take place.

Under Tier Two, gatherings would still be limited to five people on Oahu but gyms and fitness centers would be allowed to reopen and operate at 25% capacity. Group fitness classes held outdoors are currently capped at five people, but that would increase to 10 people outdoors and five people for indoor classes. In Tier 2, the current 50% capacity limit on Oahu restaurants would be lifted. A rule that permits only members of the same household to dine together would be lifted as well, but Oahu restaurant tables would still be limited to five people. More information on Oahu's reopening strategy can be found here -

<https://www.oneoahu.org/reopening-tier2>. Guidance and resources for residents of Kauai is available here - <https://www.kauai.gov/Government/Departments-Agencies/Emergency-Management-Agency-formerly-Civil-Defense/Coronavirus-Disease-2019-COVID-19>.

It is important to remember that these changes apply to off-base businesses and locations only. Region operations under HPCON Charlie remain unchanged. We will closely monitor the impact of Honolulu's changes and will make adjustments on base if they can be done in a manner that continues to protect our Ohana.

This transition comes just one week after the implementation of the pre-travel COVID-19 testing as part of Hawaii's movement to ease travel restrictions and restore the tourism trade. Any modification that allows greater person-to-person interaction increases the probability for exposure to the virus. This is why it is more important than ever to remain steadfast in the use of mitigation methods that protect ourselves, our shipmates, our neighbors and our families. Respect social distancing. Wear your face coverings (and if you are using cloth masks, make sure you wash them after daily use). Keep surfaces clean and disinfected. If you feel sick, stay at home. As much as we would all like to return to normal, we owe it to each other to stay the course to see this crisis through.

As always, take care of yourselves and your families.

V/r, Robb

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