



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

**COVID-19 AWARENESS
August 6, 2020**



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Region and MIDPAC Ohana,

In the past several months since COVID-19 appeared, we have experienced unprecedented changes in the way we do business: teleworking, teleconferences, webinars, virtual ceremonies and more. We continue to refine these skills, as we await an undetermined timeline for a return to “normal.” Oahu’s case numbers are growing at a significant rate, reaching triple digits. This is a stark contrast to just a few weeks ago, when the rate of new cases was approximately ten per day. The rapid increase of infections and worsening conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic in the state of Hawaii impacts the health of our Sailors, civilians and their families and negatively affects our ability to achieve mission assurance. Because of this upward trend, U.S. Pacific Fleet directed Navy Region Hawaii implement and set Health Protection Condition Charlie (HPCON C), effective 1 August. Based on the continuing trend, the Governor today imposed additional restrictions, including closing beaches for water access only and quarantine requirements for inter-island travel.

What does this mean to you? In many cases, we are already operating under the measures specified by HPCON C. Many offices were already following suggested in-office manning, not to exceed 50% of the total work-force, and are maximizing the use of telework. In-person meetings are limited, and social distancing and face coverings are the standard.

The most visible change you might see deals with non-work activities. We need our active duty and civilian personnel, as well as families, to be extra cautious and aware. For active duty (and I urge family members and civilian personnel to follow suit), only go to places where you can be outside and/or practice social distancing. Recreational and social gatherings, whether indoor or outdoor, cannot include more than ten people. If anyone has flu-like illness symptoms, do your best to stay away. If you cannot consistently maintain physical distancing of six feet or more between people who do not reside together, you are putting yourself, you family and your coworkers at risk. It is important to understand the restrictions off base as well as on base. They are often the same, but there are also differences.

If you need further clarification, ask your chain of command. Everyone should respect these guidelines and best practices, as they will help protect us all.

Exercise mitigations to help stop the increase of positive COVID-19 cases. Wear face coverings and insist that those around you do the same. Face coverings are designed to protect others from receiving your potential infection, but will not protect you if someone else is infected. If you find yourself in a situation where others around you are not wearing masks, leave the area. Use your best judgement and protect yourself, your shipmates, your families and anyone with whom you might come into contact.

The “new normal” remains just over the horizon, but if we hold our course, we will get there! Please continue
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to take care of yourselves and your families.

V/r, Robb

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