



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

**COVID-19 AWARENESS
January 7, 2021**



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Region and MIDPAC Ohana,

Happy New Year! Last week we finally put 2020 in our rear view mirror and embarked upon 2021 with a great sense of optimism. Just six months ago, the notion of an effective COVID-19 vaccine seemed far beyond our visible horizon, but as the new year begins, many of our first-responders and essential workers have already received the first dose of the vaccination.

With the introduction of an effective vaccine, there is a sense that we have turned a corner in our months-long fight against this virus. It is true that the vaccination looks like it will be a major game-changer, but it is also true that we still have a long way to go. The number of new cases appearing on the mainland continues to grow.

One of our most important weapons in fighting this pandemic has been our ability to make smart decisions on how we fight the COVID-19 virus. Now many of us will be faced with another decision – whether to take the vaccine when it is available. Currently the COVID vaccine is offered on a voluntary basis. If you don't feel comfortable receiving it, you may refuse the vaccine. It's an individual choice, but scientific research shows that getting vaccinated can help prevent you from getting sick with COVID-19. While many people who have been infected with COVID-19 experience only a mild illness, others have developed serious, life-threatening complications, contracted a severe illness or have even died. There is no way to know how COVID-19 will affect each individual, but a COVID-19 vaccination may help protect you by creating an antibody response without having to experience the infection.

Keep in mind that we are still in the early stages of the COVID-19 vaccination program, and that at least for now, there is only a finite supply of COVID-19 vaccine available. The prioritization of vaccine distribution will be consistent with CDC's guidance for national prioritization. While it will take some time until the vaccine is widely available, we are already making plans to notify you when your window of opportunity opens.

Until then, we need to keep doing what we have been doing for most of 2020 – maintaining social distancing, avoiding crowds, keeping our home and work areas sanitized, frequently washing our hands, and responsibly wearing face coverings. These are the types of smart choices that protect our safety and the safety of our shipmates, our loved ones, and our communities.

As always, take care of yourselves and your families.

V/r, Robb

RDML Robb Chadwick, USN

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii/
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Stay up-to-date on the latest developments at the following links (Copy & Paste):

- CNRH COVID-19 webpage: <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrh/om/coronavirus-disease-2019.html>

- CNRH Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NavyRegionHawaii/>

Ensure your family's readiness for a severe weather and develop your own response plan for hurricane season, and have plans in place for addressing a disaster: <https://www.ready.navy.mil/> and <https://www.ready.gov/september>.
