STATUS UPDATE

Washington State (WA) and other states within the Navy’s Northwest Region continue to see rising numbers of positive COVID-19 cases. WA Dept. of Health reported as of 6:30 p.m. on April 6, there were 8,384 confirmed positive cases (out of 87,902 total tests) and 372 deaths resulting from COVID-19. For the latest WA State Dept. of Health’s situational report, visit their website at www.doh.wa.gov/emergencies/coronavirus. COVID-19 cases throughout the Department of the Navy (DON) are also rising; the 617 cases reported by DON on Monday include uniformed military, civilian, family members, and contractor personnel.

Update #8 includes the following recent changes:

1. COVID-19 face coverings guidance and procedures
2. “Stay Home” orders remain in effect
3. Anti-virus software for home use, and operational and cyber security reminders
4. Previously-directed measures still in place
5. Resources for Sailors and families
6. CDC Practical Tips and Web links to reference sites

The health and well-being of our personnel and their families remain our top priority. Navy leaders continue to closely monitor the situation and make efforts to limit exposure to our Northwest Navy Family while balancing mission requirements.

1. On Sunday, April 5, Secretary of Defense directed all individuals on DoD property, installations and facilities to wear cloth face coverings when unable to maintain at least six feet of physical distance. This is in alignment with recently updated Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendation for everyone to wear cloth face coverings in public settings where physical distancing measures are difficult to maintain, especially in areas of significant community-based transmission. The CDC now considers masks to be effective in preventing wearers from spreading the virus to others.

Until official Navy uniform face coverings are produced and implemented for use, personnel are authorized to wear medical or construction type masks, or other hand-made cloth coverings using bandanas, scarfs, or other fabric materials. Personnel shall be prepared to lower their face covering as directed by security personnel to verify identification.

Face coverings need to be conservative in appearance and not offensive, as well as meet the following CDC guidance:

- Fit snugly, but comfortably, against the side of the face.
- Be from nose to chin. Full-face coverings (like ski masks) are not authorized.
- Be secured with ties or ear loops.
- Preferably include multiple layers of fabric if material is cloth.
- Allow for breathing without restriction.
- If reusable, be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to its shape.
Service members and their families, civilian employees and Navy contractors are strongly encouraged to follow CDC guidelines on and off-base, including the wearing of cloth face coverings. This does not include in a Service member's or Service family member's personal residence on a military installation. Information on how to produce these face coverings at home can be found on the CDC website at [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html).

Every Northwest Navy Family member needs to do their part to slow the spread of the virus. Everyone should, continue following health protection guidance from the CDC and local public health officials, which includes physical distancing, not gathering in groups for parties (despite many people being home from school and work), frequent hand-washing, regular cleaning of spaces, and wearing cloth face coverings in public when unable to maintain physical distancing. Together, we will get through this.

2. A “Stay Home” order remains in effect for Washington State and others within the Northwest region. Navy personnel (military and civilian) remain exempted from these orders as they are considered critical infrastructure workers and are required to maintain national security. Some Navy jobs require a physical presence at work. Personnel unsure about their work status should discuss with their supervisor.

We need to do better as a team to maintain physical distancing, especially in high-traffic areas like the Navy Exchange or Commissary or base food service areas. As difficult as it may be, we also need to stop gathering in groups – whether that may be to hang out around barracks or housing areas or exercising together – even if you feel fine, because it adds unnecessary risk to our readiness.

Minimizing close contact with others is paramount to preventing the spread of this highly contagious disease.

3. Many of our Northwest Navy Family continue to work from home, but operational security and cyber
security need to be maintained. Active duty military and civilian employees are encouraged to take advantage of the DoD Antivirus Software License Agreement Home Use Program. Home use of the antivirus products will protect personal PCs and potentially lessen the threat of malicious threats being introduced to the workplace and DoD networks. Information on how to activate your subscription can be found at the very end of this update or online at https://patches.csd.disa.mil/Metadata.aspx?id=79775.

Remember to use extreme caution when sharing information online and to Stop, Think and then Connect. For more tips, visit the Dept. of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency website https://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/tips. Employees with questions should contact their command’s cybersecurity/information technology representative.

4. In alignment with federal and state guidance, Northwest Navy Commands continue to implement the following health protection measures as previously directed, which are in effect until further notice:

- Commands have implemented enhanced medical screening checkpoints at certain operational or headquarters buildings. The symptom screening and COVID-19 questionnaire review would be done outside of the facility, prior to entry or immediately upon entry to the facility.

- All Navy personnel – whether at home or at work – should continuously self-evaluate their health for signs of illness.

- Installations adjusted operations at visitor control centers (VCC) to include the use of electronic means to the maximum extent possible to grant installation access and discontinued waiting room use when physical distancing cannot be maintained. If necessary, VCC staff will direct customers to wait in a secondary holding area until called. VCC staff will also continue using a COVID-19 health questionnaire to screen personnel seeking access to the installation.

- Region Legal Service Office has reserved all legal assistance services for active duty servicemembers by appointment only. Existing appointments for those not active duty will be cancelled and rescheduled at a
later time. Active duty legal service appointments will be made over the phone by calling the appropriate office:
Bremerton: (360) 476-4275
Bangor: (360) 396-6003
Everett: (716) 712-4677
Whidbey Island: (360) 257-2126

- In alignment with DoD guidance, and to enable mission assurance and force health protection, the Navy will follow established travel restrictions through May 11, for service members, DoD civilians, and families traveling to, from, or through Level 3 locations, as designated by the CDC. Navy has also restricted official domestic travel for its service members, civilians and family members in order to limit the spread of COVID-19.

- Installations continue to use no-touch ID scanning at all entry control points. Personnel are required to present both sides of their ID/credential for screening by a guard.

- Installation Commanders have activated their emergency operations centers to support COVID-19 response and coordination with agency and community partners.

- Transient Personnel Unit will continue screening incoming personnel upon arrival and then daily after that.

- NRNW and Installations continue working to provide or coordinate cleaning products and/or hand sanitizer for high-traffic facilities and common areas on base for those personnel whose job requires a physical presence.

- NRNW and Installations continue reviewing increased frequency of janitorial services at certain facilities and stand ready to implement in a scalable manner.

- Military Medical Treatment Facilities continue to limit points of entry, conduct prescreening procedures and evaluate impacts to the Navy’s mission.

- Navy Command leadership has greatly limited ship and facility tours, Navy-sponsored events, large events and mass gatherings.

- Navy Commands have and continue to identify areas where employees may be initially isolated if they develop symptoms at work. Those employees will then be sent home or to a medical treatment facility as appropriate.

- Navy Commands have been encouraging personnel who feel ill to stay home and self-isolate per CDC guidance, and helping them understand personnel policies that support those decisions (such as annual or sick leave, or weather and public safety leave provisions). Commands have been ensuring personnel diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19 are isolated or quarantined in alignment with CDC and Dept. of Defense guidance.

- Navy Commands have implemented alternative work schedules and contingency procedures to maintain operational readiness but slow the spread of COVID-19. These plans include options such as teleworking from home. If employees directed to remain at home are unable to work remotely, they should be put into a weather or safety leave status. Servicemembers, civilians and contractors should follow the directions given by their supervisors for their respective commands/organizations.

- Installations have cancelled events and closed certain facilities such as gyms, base theaters, recreation centers and chapels. Dine-in restaurants and bars on base are closed with the following exception: Galleys and Navy food services are carry-out and/or drive-through. There may be some galley exceptions where physical distancing can be accommodated. Certain shops such as Navy Exchanges and Commissaries remain open at this time.
Navy Commands continue to coordinate as needed with their Installation and Public Works to arrange for deep-cleaning of any affected facilities in the event of a confirmed COVID-19 case.

Northwest Navy personnel should continue to monitor installation Facebook pages for additional changes related to installation services or facilities such as food establishments, shops, child and youth programs or recreation centers.

5. Information for Sailors and their families include:

- Navy childcare providers and staff will provide support to service members and military families as long as they are able to. For specific details, please contact your local Child and Youth Program representative.

- Navy Region Northwest Fleet and Family Readiness (FFR) program is sharing daily tips for Navy families on food and nutrition, fun family resources, personal enrichment opportunities and news in their Navy Family Plan of the Day series that can be found on their Facebook pages: www.facebook.com/WhidbeyFFR; www.facebook.com/KitsapFFR; and www.facebook.com/EverettFFR.

- The updated MyNavy Family App provides additional information and resources for Sailors and families. Learn more & download the app at www.applocker.navy.mil.

- All Navy personnel should always make sure their information is accurate in the Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System (NFAAS). Visit the NFAAS site to review and update or validate information: https://navyfamily.navy.mil.

- Military medical treatment facilities are doing their best to implement physical distancing measures while also addressing patients’ care needs. Those who are able to use virtual means can connect with their provider remotely through tools like the MHS GENESIS patient portal, which can be found at https://myaccess.dmrc.osd.mil/identitymanagement/authenticate.do?execution=e1s1.

- The Military Health System (MHS) Nurse Advice Line (NAL) has been receiving a much larger call volume and wait times tend to be lengthy. They are working on reducing waiting times as best they can. Please continue to call if you are exposed or have symptoms, but you may also view Tricare’s frequently asked questions: https://www.tricare.mil/HealthWellness/HealthyLiving/Coronavirus/Coronavirus-FAQs.

Navy leadership and our Navy medical professionals will continue to monitor the situation. As the situation progresses, NRNW may implement additional measures as needed in alignment with Dept. of Defense guidance and in coordination with state and local partners should there be an increase in risk to the Fleet, Fighter and Family.

**PRACTICAL TIPS**

There are simple things the CDC recommends people do to reduce risk of infection and prevent the spread of COVID-19, which are similar to routine flu and other upper respiratory illness prevention measures.

- **Clean** your hands – Use soap and water for 20 seconds; use hand sanitizer with minimum 60% alcohol.
- **Cover** your cough or sneeze – Use your arm or tissue. Immediately throw used tissue in the trash.
- **Confine** yourself at home when sick until advised by your healthcare provider.
- **Crowd** avoidance – Use discretion when traveling to impacted areas, urban areas, or large gatherings.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands; avoid close contact with others; and regularly clean and disinfect frequently-touched objects and surfaces.
INFORMATION RESOURCES

- CDC tips for work and home: https://www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions
- Military Health System: http://health.mil
- Tricare Nurse Advice Line: 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273) or www.mhsnurseadviceonline.com
- Tricare Coronavirus FAQs: www.tricare.mil/HealthWellness/HealthyLiving/Coronavirus/Coronavirus-FAQs
- Washington State Department of Health novel coronavirus call center: 1-800-525-0127 and press #

NAVY REGION NORTHWEST EMPLOYEES

Washington State Governor, Jay Inslee initiated a “stay home, stay healthy” policy March 23 for the state of Washington. We have been aligned with the state throughout this crisis and will continue to do so. In the executive order, our military and civilian workforce is exempted traveling to and from work and may continue to support the mission. Essentially, our work continues with the same safety restrictions we previously implemented. Please continue forward with your same actions including teleworking when possible or returning directly home from work and maintaining physical distancing. We must continue to minimize potential exposure as best we can. Please discuss with your supervisor if you need clarification on your work situation.

Personnel required to physically report to work are to conduct self-screening using the questionnaire above and report to their supervisor prior to entering the base and reporting to work. Employees working from home are asked to also continue to monitor their own health for any signs of illness and keep their supervisor informed if their status changes. If you are sick, you should stay home, try to distance from others in your household as best you can, and contact your health care provider as needed.

INSTALLATIONS AND COMMANDS

Northwest Navy Installations and Commands will continue to communicate additional, specific guidance and efforts with their people through their respective communication channels.

FUTURE UPDATES

Monitor news resources and public health updates regularly to stay informed. Navy Region Northwest will continue to provide weekly (or more frequently as needed) Navy-specific updates for the Navy family at https://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrnw/om/COVID-19.html

This Northwest Navy information “hub” will include status updates, handy information flyers for printing and posting like the example to the right, and links to additional information and resources from our public health partners.
Antivirus Home Use Program (AV HUP)

The DoD Antivirus Software License Agreement with McAfee allows active DoD employees to utilize the antivirus software for home use. Home use of the antivirus products will not only protect personal PCs, but will also potentially lessen the threat of malicious logic being introduced to the workplace and compromising DoD networks. Contractors are excluded from using the software at home or on any other system not belonging to the DoD.

McAfee Internet Security

As a member of the DoD, you can now take advantage of a free 1-year subscription to McAfee Internet Security for your PC or MAC at no cost to you. This subscription gives you proactive security for your home PC by preventing malicious attacks and keeping you safe while you surf, search, and download files online. McAfee’s security service also continuously delivers the latest software so your protection is never out-of-date.

By installing McAfee software on your home system, you’ll not only be protecting your PC from malicious threats, but you’ll also help your organization strengthen its IT security against transferable viruses and spyware.

Instructions on how to download your copy of McAfee Internet Security:

1. Navigate to the website for your applicable platform, either PC or MAC, listed below. In addition, enter the associated “Company Code” in the appropriate field on the webpage:

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2. Enter your DoD email address.

3. Click “Get Email”.

4. You will receive an email from McAfee Subscriptions with your unique license key and download link.

**Note - DO NOT download the software on your Government Furnished Equipment (GFE).**

AV/AS HOME USE

- DISA Home Use Program instructions can be found here: https://patches.csd.disa.mil/Metadata.aspx?id=79775 (CAC Required)

- DoD does not provide any technical assistance to home users. Home users seeking technical support can contact McAfee directly on the support website: http://home.mcafee.com/Root/Support.aspx?page=Support