

Navy Region Southwest



Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Update 9: May 13, 2020

STATUS UPDATE

It has been over one month since the states of California and Nevada issued a “stay at home” orders. While states are beginning to modify and relax some “stay at home” restrictions, now is not the time to be complacent. Our efforts to slow the spread of coronavirus are having an impact, but the numbers are still sobering.

The California Dept. of Public Health (DPH) reported as of May 12 there were 69,382 confirmed positive cases and 2,847 deaths resulting from COVID-19. COVID-19 cases throughout the Department of Defense (DoD) are still rising; the 8,210 total cases reported by DoD as of today include uniformed

military, civilian, family members, and contractor personnel. These numbers are inclusive of all those who have recovered and returned to work; 3,682 individuals as of May 13.

The health and well-being of our personnel and their families remains our top priority and we are making every effort to limit exposure to our Southwest Navy Family while balancing mission requirements.

Effective May 1, in accordance with U.S. Transportation Command, Personal Property Division health protection protocols, the Navy implemented a process requiring transportation service providers (TSP, or moving companies) to provide a TSP certification of health protection protocols document to the military member before beginning work in the members residence. This certification ensures the TSP is adhering to Center for Disease Control’s (CDC) guidelines, equipped with and wearing face coverings, prepared to clean surfaces touched after receiving service member permission, using the smallest crew required, adhering to physical distancing guidelines, and maintaining good hand-hygiene.

Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP) Personal Property Processing Offices (PPPO) will conduct 100 percent quality assurance (QA) checks on all inbound and outbound household goods shipments. The PPO will identify scheduled pickups and deliveries, and no later than

the day prior, provide the service member with COVID-19 safety procedures and the PPPO point of contact. PPPOs will contact service members at least once during their move to ensure the TSP is following COVID-19 safety protocols and to conduct a QA check. Additionally, losing and gaining command will maintain contact with service members throughout the move process.

The Navy recently released some incentives that aim to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 and maintain operational, Sailor and family readiness. These include: extension of one-year High-Year Tenure waivers for Sailors willing to extend in critical billets; offering Selective Reenlistment Bonuses; offering Sea Duty

5 Measures to Protect Your Health While Moving in a COVID-19 Environment

- 1** Work with your chain of command and transportation office to reschedule your pack-out or delivery if you are not comfortable with movers entering your home.
 - Visit <https://www.move.mil/customer-service> to find the contact info for your local shipping office.
- 2** Discuss health related concerns before any work begins in your residence. Use the following questions to frame this discussion. If any party (including family members present at the residence) answers 'Yes' to any one of these questions, the pack-out or delivery should not proceed:
 - Have you (or anyone in your party) had a fever of 100.4 or greater in the last 72-hrs?
 - Do you (or anyone in your party) have a cough?
 - Are you (anyone in your party) experiencing shortness of breath or difficulty breathing?
 - Have you (or anyone in your party) had any EXPOSURE to or CONTACT with a POSITIVE or SUSPECTED COVID-19 person?
- 3** Limit the number of family members in the residence to those needed to supervise your move.
 - If this is not possible, prepare a dedicated room where family members can stay while personnel are working.
 - Moving companies have also been directed to bring the minimum number of personnel required to handle the shipment.
- 4** Wear cloth face coverings. Anyone in your home during your move, whether on or off a military installation, should follow CDC guidelines on the use of face coverings.
 - A cloth face covering shall extend above the nose without interfering with eyewear, and below the chin to cover the mouth and nostrils completely.
 - CDC guidance on use and instructions for homemade face coverings can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>.
- 5** Routinely clean frequently touched surfaces.
 - Visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/disinfecting-your-home.html> for cleaning guidance.

Incentive Pay for Sailors in certain skills who are willing to extend at sea or return to sea early; and offering active duty opportunities for Sailors in the individual ready reserve and the Navy Reserve's New Accession Training Program. More information about these manning incentives can be found in NAVADMIN 132/20 (<https://www.public.navy.mil/bupersnpc/reference/messages/Documents/NAVADMINS/NAV2020/NAV20132.txt>).

The Navy also recently released interim policy for deployability evaluation, temporary limited duty and Disability Evaluation System (DES) processes due to COVID-19. Medical readiness will be done through prioritization of medical assessments, delaying or extending assessments where possible, and using telehealth capabilities to the maximum extent possible. Prioritizing medical services during this pandemic means potential delays in certain types of care or assessments, which could lead to non-deployability retention determinations - additional periods of limited duty, administrative separation or referral to the DES. More information about this interim policy can be found in NAVADMIN 129/20 (<https://www.public.navy.mil/bupersnpc/reference/messages/Documents/NAVADMINS/NAV2020/NAV20129.txt>).

U.S. Office of Special Counsel released a **Hatch Act Advisory** reminding federal executive branch employees they are still prohibited from engaging in certain partisan political activities such as campaigning for a candidate or political party, even while teleworking. This advisory is intended to assist employees in understanding their continuing obligations during this election year. Specifically, the Advisory clarifies that a teleworking employee is still considered "on duty" when representing an agency and conducting work in an official capacity even if that work is done remotely.

The same on-duty rules apply to those participating in telephone or video conferences in an official capacity as they did when the meetings were in person. For example, employees should not wear a campaign shirt or have campaign materials visible in the background when participating in virtual meetings.

When on duty, employees should not use their social media account to post, like, comment or share anything in support of a specific candidate or political party when on duty, even if their social media account is private.

Employees wishing to engage in political activity by posting their views on social media or making political donations must ensure they are not on duty when engaging in such activities.

For more Hatch Act social media guidance, visit

<https://osc.gov/Documents/Hatch%20Act/Advisory%20Opinions/Federal/Social%20Media%20Guidance.pdf>.

The U.S. Navy issued Election Season Do's and Don'ts in March for Sailors and Navy civilians:

<https://navylive.dodlive.mil/2020/03/06/election-season-dos-and-donts/>.

Find the full Hatch Act Advisory for Teleworking Employees at

<https://osc.gov/Documents/Hatch%20Act/Advisory%20Opinions/Federal/Hatch%20Act%20Advisory%20for%20Teleworking%20Employees.pdf>.

Find Office of Special Counsel Hatch Act Frequently Asked Questions online at

<https://osc.gov/Services/Pages/HatchAct-FAQ.aspx>.

DoD has implemented the following measures to temporarily allow for continued use of expiring ID cards/credentials:

- Common Access Cards (CAC) or Volunteer Logical Access Credentials (VoLAC) that expired on or after April 16, 2020, and are within 30 days of expiration, may have the certificates updated

using ID Card Office Online to allow for continued use through Sept. 30, 2020. Such cards are also authorized for continued use to facilitate access to benefits through Sept. 30 if the cardholder's benefits eligibility is unchanged.

- Uniformed Services ID (USID) cards that expired on or after Jan. 1, 2020, can be authorized for continued benefit use through Sept. 30, 2020, if the cardholder's affiliation did not change.

These measures will enable personnel who are unable or waiting on an appointment to renew their CAC/VoLAC/USID to continue temporarily using an expired card for physical and logical access to facilities and benefits through Sept. 30, 2020.

More information can be found at <https://www.cac.mil/Coronavirus/>. Scroll to the bottom of that page under News & Updates for specific directions to verify eligibility and renew credentials, as well as find points of contact if you have problems with this process.

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

- 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.
- Personnel required to physically report to work must go through health-monitoring checkpoints at certain operational or headquarters buildings.
- Installations may require proof of a face covering prior to coming on board, and face coverings are required for all individuals entering commissaries and Navy exchanges, in addition for those who cannot maintain the recommended physical distance requirements while on base.
- 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 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.

Southwest Navy personnel should continue to monitor installation Facebook pages for additional changes related to installation services or facilities.

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS AND LEAVE POLICY UPDATE

The Department of Defense's ongoing travel restrictions and Stop Movement order has been extended, meaning that, unless rescinded earlier, this update keeps all Navy permanent change of station moves and non-essential official travel on hold until **June 30**.

The extension was announced in NAVADMIN 116/20, released April 21. The message replaces NAVADMIN 080/20, released March 21, and is an updated version of the "one-stop" roll-up of all the Navy's personnel-related policies in place to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 throughout the force.

The message also announced recently approved special leave accrual for military members on active duty, of up to 120-days because of COVID-19 travel restrictions. This authorization applies to leave earned between March 11 and Sept. 30, 2020 and Sailors will have until the end of fiscal-year 2023 to use or lose those days.

More information on the DoD extension of the stop-movement order can be found at <https://media.defense.gov/2020/Mar/19/2002266939/-1/-1/1/COVID-19-TRAVEL-RESTRICTIONS-FAQ.pdf>.

PRACTICAL TIPS

To reduce risk of infection and prevent the spread of COVID-19, assess and adjust your hygiene etiquette:

- **Clean** your hands – Use soap and water for 20 seconds, use hand sanitizer with minimum 60 percent alcohol.
- **Cover** your cough – Use your arm or tissue. If you use a tissue, immediately throw it in the trash.
- **Confine** yourself at home when sick.
- **Crowd** avoidance – Use discretion when travelling to impacted areas, urban areas, or large gatherings.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands; avoid close contact with people who are sick; and clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces. If you are sick with COVID-19 or suspect you are infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, CDC recommends the following to prevent spreading the disease to others:

- Stay home except to get medical care, in which case call ahead to your medical provider before visiting
- Separate yourself from other people and animals in your home
- Call ahead before visiting a doctor
- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Avoid sharing items with others
- Clean your hands often
- Clean all “high-touch” surfaces daily
- Monitor your symptoms

For symptoms such as moderate-to-severe difficulty breathing, severe chest pain, high fever or inability to hold down fluids, again, personnel should call (before visiting) their primary care manager immediately.

INFORMATION RESOURCES

- More practical CDC tips for work and home: <https://www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions>
- CDC recommendations for cleaning and disinfecting: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/home/cleaning-disinfection.html>
- CDC COVID-19 information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- Military Health System: <https://health.mil/News/In-the-Spotlight/Coronavirus>
- CDC Guidance for Travelers: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-cov/travelers/index.html>
- Tricare Nurse Advice Line: [1-800-TRICARE \(874-2273\)](tel:1-800-TRICARE) or www.mhsnurseadvice.com
- Military Crisis Line: 1-800-273-TALK (option 1), text 838255, visit www.militarycrisisline.net
- Military OneSource: Call 1-800-342-9647 or visit www.militaryonesource.mil
- Navy Chaplain Care: Call 1-855-NAVY-311, or visit www.navy.mil/local/chaplaincorps/
- Psychological Health Resource Center: Call 1-866-966-1020; visit www.realwarriors.net/livechat
- Psychological Health Outreach Program (PHOP): Call: 1-866-578-PHOP (7467).
- Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center: Visit www.med.navy.mil
- Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society: Locations available at: www.nmcrs.org
- Department of the Navy Employee Assistance Program: (844) 366-2327, or visit <https://donceap.foh.psc.gov/>
- State COVID-19 Pages and Resources:
 - California State Department of Health website <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx> and general call center: [1-916-558-1784](tel:1-916-558-1784)

- Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health: http://dpbh.nv.gov/Programs/OPHIE/dta/Hot_Topics/Coronavirus/
- Arizona Department of Health Services: <https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/index.php#novel-coronavirus-home>
- Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/>
- New Mexico Department of Health: <https://cv.nmhealth.org/>
- Utah Department of Health: <https://coronavirus.utah.gov/>

NAVY REGION SOUTHWEST EMPLOYEES

Both California and Nevada continue to implement “stay at home” policies and state-wide orders. Navy Region Southwest has been aligned with our state partners throughout this crisis and will continue to support state, county and local efforts to “flatten the curve.” In state executive orders, 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 with your same actions including teleworking when possible or returning directly home from work and maintaining physical distancing. 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 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

Southwest 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. Navy Region Southwest will continue to provide weekly (or more frequently if needed) Navy-specific updates for the Navy family on [this web page](#) and through the Navy Region Southwest [Facebook page](#).

This Southwest Navy information “hub” will include 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.

