COVID Mitigation Plan Update ...from Chief of Staff

December 29, 2021

First, let me take the opportunity to provide a warm (figuratively speaking) welcome to our new students. Its great to have you aboard!

Second, as we embark on a new year and new academic quarter, NPS leadership continues to monitor the pandemic situation on a daily basis. As anticipated, we are seeing an uptick of positive COVID-19 cases this week. As of yesterday evening, NPS has had a total of 23 positive cases including family members [For perspective, NPS has ~2,300 staff, faculty, students not including family members] reported in the last week and Monterey County is now in the "high" community transmission category at 101.6 cases/100K over past 7 days (440 cases). [For further perspective, per the CDC tracker, the National average is 435.6 cases/100K over past 7 days.]

While we are concerned by the rise of the Omicron variant, the current conditions do not suggest that we need to alter the post-holiday mitigation plan promulgated on 09 Dec and pasted at the bottom.

BLIM (a new acronym I just made up):

1. Remain in maximize (not mandatory) telework when possible.
2. All personnel on campus indoors are masked (until further notice).
3. All personnel in the classroom are vaccinated.
4. With the exception of classroom or laboratory instruction, no in-person meetings with more than 4 people for the first two weeks of instruction (until January 16).

We will continue to monitor the local conditions and, if necessary, change our posture. To that end, you should be prepared to convert to a distance-learning environment.

As we enter another holiday weekend, some common sense and precautions such as avoiding large gatherings and keeping the windows open will go a long way to keeping you and your shipmates safe and healthy. If you have recently traveled or had visitors, I encourage you and your family members to take advantage of the free COVID testing services out in town.

Lastly, if you're feeling under the weather or have symptoms of illness (cold, influenza, COVID), please just stay home and get better.

Best of health to all and have a safe and happy New Year!

v/r,
CAPT Philip E. Old
Chief of Staff, Naval Postgraduate School