COVID-19 Task Force Update

Sharing information regarding academic planning activities for the NPS Summer Quarter 2021

16 June 2021

Command Guidance:
President Rondeau has approved the plan to have the summer quarter taught in hybrid-mode. The current goal is to maximize the number of classes in face-to-face mode while maintaining health protection.
Provost Gartner's objective is that 50% of all classes should have in-person experience (hybrid or 100% face-to-face). The remainder of classes will be delivered in DL-mode.
The safety of faculty, students and staff remains the top priority. At the moment, NSAM is in HPCON B (health protection condition B), which mandates that no more than 50% of NPS population be on campus at any moment.

CNO Guidance:
The CNO office issued NAVADMIN 110/21, the US NAVY COVID-19 STANDING GUIDANCE, updated on June 2. It said:

"Widespread immunization, command engagement, crew ownership, and individual accountability are the cornerstones to our success to date ... The covid-19 vaccines authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration are safe, effective and in particular, are vital to protecting recipients from hospitalization and death. Commanding officers should make every effort to educate their crews on the importance of vaccination and facilitate open discussions with medical personnel if there are questions. Documented Covid-19 cases among immunized personnel are very infrequent and all cases have been mild to moderate. Consistent with ref (f), to date none of the more than 230,000 fully immunized Navy and Marine Corps members have been hospitalized."
"... Fully immunized individuals are not required to wear facemasks or physically distance from others ..."

DOD Mask Guidance:
The Deputy Secretary of Defense signed on May 13 the following mask guidance that said:

"...fully vaccinated DoD personnel (who are at least two weeks beyond their final dose) are no longer required to wear a mask indoors or outdoors at DoD facilities. All DoD personnel should continue to comply with CDC guidance regarding areas where masks should be worn, including within airports. Personnel who are not fully vaccinated should continue to follow applicable DoD mask guidance, including continuing to wear masks indoors."

Reminder from our Chief of Staff, CAPT Philip Old: The honor system applies to mask wear as inquiry concerning vaccination status of civilian personnel is prohibited. Honor, Courage, Commitment!
President’s Board for Student Affairs:

Message from the PBSA:

“We are here to help and want to continue to support you in a way that best serves all NPS students. To this end, we plan to meet students at the New Student Orientation, support graduates at June’s Graduation Ceremony, will be offering campus tours, and will continue to host monthly student council meetings on the second Thursday of every month. We will be pushing our updates via student email, Yammer, and through our resource page (available since 4 June 2021). If you would like to learn more, or have questions for the PBSA, please email either my personal email address at domonique.hittner@nps.edu or the PBSA at large at pbsa@nps.edu.”

Administrative Leave Usage: (new)

According to DOD and DON guidance, Administrative Leave is authorized in relation to COVID-19 vaccinations administered by DOD, federal, state, and local government organizations, or private health care organizations and pharmacies as follows:

1. Up to four (4) hours to receive COVID-19 vaccination (per dose); to include time spent traveling to and from the vaccination location, time at the vaccination location, and, if needed, for a reasonable amount of recovery time.
2. On a case-by-case basis, supervisors may grant additional time for extenuating circumstances. (e.g., an employee shows up for a confirmed appointment time but is unable to receive the vaccine and has to reschedule.)
3. No more than two (2) workdays, for recovery, per vaccination dose, for employees who experience an adverse reaction to a COVID-19 vaccination.

If you have any questions, please contact Ken Stewart via Teams or email at kastewar@nps.edu.

Other Academic Spaces: (new)

There are currently two methods to make requests for study spaces:

1. **Library Spaces**: The Library re-opened on 14 June. Open space study areas with socially distanced seating are available. Study rooms will be available on a reservation basis with limited seating capacity. To access the reservation system, you can use the Reserve a Room icon on the Library homepage https://library.nps.edu/ or directly at https://libmeeting.nps.edu/. Once in the reservation system, hovering over the room numbers with your cursor will enable you to see the current seating capacity, following current COVID-19 safety protocols.
2. **Campus Spaces**: The Event Scheduler requires VPN access and your nps.edu email account. You can request conference rooms, cubicles, classroom and auditoriums and your requests will be sent directly to the room owner for approval. Learn more about how to make a request at https://nps.edu/web/scheduling/faqs.

*Please note that campus spaces are limited so requests will be granted on a first come, first served basis. Additionally, we recommend only making requests for the dates and times you will need the room, as blocking off rooms for an entire day/week is discouraged and may result in a denied request.*
Classroom/Lab Scheduling & Availability: (updated)
Current classroom capacity is 25%-50% of the normal capacity due to CDC 6ft social-distancing guideline. Alternative spaces, such as larger conference rooms were added to the pool of available classroom spaces to provide additional capacity for in-residence learning.

The Scheduling Office reminds that changes to the posted schedule will need to follow this scheduling workflow. The Scheduling Office will be available once the schedule is posted to help facilitate room adjustments.

All ad-hoc room requests for events occurring on or after July 5th will be on pending status until the AY21Q4 is finalized. Contact scheduling@nps.edu with any questions.

For scheduling questions: scheduling@nps.edu

Instructional Support: (updated)
The TLC hosted a workshop entitled “Keys to Success for Hybrid Teaching and Learning”. Click here to view the recorded session: https://nps.edu/web/tlc/rev-up-your-engines

The Office of Teaching and Learning (OTL) and the Graduate Education Advancement Center (GEAC) look forward to more faculty and students returning to campus for instructional activities in the coming months. To begin this transition, faculty are encouraged to incorporate blended/hybrid instructional opportunities throughout the quarter for specific purposes such as review/tutorial sessions, labs, regular classes with social distancing, project work, independent study, and advisory sessions.

For additional ideas and help getting started contact Ali Rodgers: arodgers@nps.edu
Resources for course design and technology & pedagogy integration: geacinstrdesign@nps.edu

For further information and to review instructional resources, visit TLC website. For personal assistance, contact: TLC@nps.edu

Safety Update:
Vaccinations are widely available and encouraged: (see https://nps.edu/covid-19-vaccine-planning)
Ventilation and airflow have been tested in windowless classrooms throughout this past year and has included repairs to some systems. The Safety Office continues to test the windowless classrooms, significantly expanding the number of available rooms for the summer. All windowed rooms are approved for use.
For further information: https://nps.edu/web/safety/coronavirus

Technical Support:
ITACS, in conjunction with GEAC, is working on increasing the technology capabilities of NPS classrooms, outfitting the classrooms across campus with hybrid capabilities. Information on the use of hybrid classrooms and the status capabilities is available on the NPS Wiki:

- Hybrid How-to: NPS Classrooms
- List of Hybrid Enabled Classrooms, with specific details of rooms and individual capabilities. This list will be updated as additional classrooms are equipped.

For further information, click here: https://nps.edu/web/technology/educational-technology

Jennifer Barnhill, Tony Colon, MAJ Dominique Hittner, CAPT Philip Old, Ali Rodgers, and Harry Thomas provided content. Please send feedback, inputs or corrections to Geraldo Ferrer, Dennis Lester or Tom Rosko.