

COVID-19 Pre-Holiday Break Update ...from CAPT Philip E. Old, Chief of Staff

December 11, 2020

In compliance with the State of California's [Regional Stay-at-Home Order](#) on December 3 and a [Supplemental Order](#) on December 6, a [Monterey County order](#) has been issued from Sunday evening, 13 December, at 10:00 PM through Monday, January 11, at 6:00 AM, and includes the following restrictions:

- All gatherings with members of other households are prohibited except as expressly permitted
- All individuals shall stay home or at their place of residence except as necessary to conduct activities associated with critical infrastructure, as required by law or as specifically permitted
- Worship and political expression are permitted outdoors
- Guidance to schools remain in effect and unchanged
- Retailers may operate indoors at no more than 20% capacity (grocery stores at no more than 35%)
- Outdoor recreation facilities may continue to operate
- Any number of persons from the same household may leave their residence, lodging, or temporary accommodation, as long as they do not engage in any interaction with any number of persons from any other household, except as permitted
- No hotel or lodging entity in California shall accept or honor out of state reservations for non-essential travel, unless the persons quarantine in the hotel or lodging for at least the minimum time required

Continue to practice protective actions such as wearing properly fitting face coverings, maintaining social and physical distancing, minimizing indoor gatherings, and eliminating non-essential travel.

NPS has confirmed 36 positive cases since the beginning of November, a marked increase from the 13 cases from March through October. We have no known instances of virus transmission in any of our facilities. For this reason, previously authorized on-campus activity may continue through the end of the fall quarter. But if you can effectively complete your responsibilities from home, please continue to do so to the maximum extent possible in order to minimize the potential of exposure of yourself and others. If conditions worsen or if there is a breakdown in our following procedures, a move back to a mandatory telework environment may be necessitated. I want to reiterate that there is neither an expectation nor pressure to return to campus for meetings or other events.

For those that are planning to travel or planning to have visitors come to your home, I strongly urge you to weigh the risks and consider delaying those plans. If you decide you must travel during the break, please follow the guidance, limit your interactions with outsiders to the maximum extent and wear a mask. Prudence dictates that you

should factor in an expectation of a 14-day restriction of movement (ROM) period upon the end of the travel/visitors in your decision-making process.

For the active duty population, some other commands in the local area have already restricted leave travel for service members. At this point, the Dean of Students and I are trusting of your judgment and have confidence that you will engage in proper behavior and maintain force health protection regardless of location. Reminder: NAVNORTH EXORD, that you acknowledged and signed on Page 13, emphasizes that you are responsible for following all state and local public health orders at the destination; however, I ask you all to redouble your efforts and comply with the stay-at-home orders through the holidays so we can all look forward to the start of another successful quarter in January.

The Department of Defense (DOD) has also released the first in a series of documents which describe the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. The DOD COVID-19 vaccine plan will implement a standardized and coordinated strategy for prioritizing, distributing, administering, any COVID-19 vaccine(s) through a phased approach to vaccinate all Active component, Reserve component, TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Select beneficiaries, and select DoD civilians and contract personnel authorized to receive immunizations from DoD. The initial distribution will be consistent with Center for Disease Control guidance for national prioritization: to health care workers, emergency services personnel, personnel performing activities associated with critical national capabilities, select deploying individuals, other critical and essential support personnel, and high-risk individuals. At this point in the planning effort, we do not know when vaccines will be available for NPS employees.

As for the start of winter quarter on January 4, I expect that execution of personal responsibility will prevail over the holidays and courses will begin in a strictly distance learning format with the exception of those limited offerings which require a classified or lab environment. These courses will employ enhanced screening checks and environmental reviews to ensure the safety of our students and faculty. In early-January, the NPS leadership team will assess local health conditions and trends to determine if NPS-Flex blended learning and other on-campus activities can safely begin.

To close, I remain impressed by your collective mental resilience and commitment throughout this health crisis. NPS has been able to accomplish its mission without significant interruption because of the creativity, determination, and procedural compliance demonstrated by our faculty, students, and staff across campus. If you or your family is struggling, please take advantage of the resources that are available. One additional resource is an upcoming [Standing Strong](#) parenting class facilitated by U.S. Army Family Advocacy Program (FAP), New Parent Support, the POM Garrison Chaplain, and the Pediatrics Clinic via Teams on 15 December at 1600.

As always, please take care of yourself, take care of your family and take care of your Shipmates!

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