



Navy Region Southeast All Hands Message

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Update: October 16, 2020

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HPCON Bravo – NAS Corpus Christi, NSF Beaufort, NCBC Gulfport, SB Kings Bay, NAS Kingsville, NSA Mid-South, NAS JRB New Orleans, NSA Orlando, and NAS Pensacola

HPCON Charlie – All other southeast installations

STATUS UPDATE #19

Team Southeast,

Much of Navy Region Southeast appears to have turned a corner on Coronavirus numbers. As we continue to live and operate in this new normal, it is important for our military and civilian team members to continue exercising due vigilance as we deal with existing restrictions.

Rest assured that our primary concern remains the safety and well-being of our people and their families. Many installations have cautiously reopened facilities to allow recreational, dining, and other services. These decoupled services have enabled an improved quality of life on the base while still adhering to the requirements of existing orders.

The next step, of course, is to reach a point where we can lower the Health Protection Condition (HPCON) on the installations from CHARLIE to HPCON BRAVO. NAS Corpus Christi, NSF Beaufort, NCBC Gulfport, SB Kings Bay, NAS Kingsville, NSA Mid-South, NAS JRB New Orleans, NSA Orlando, and NAS Pensacola have all been approved by U.S. Fleet Forces command to transition to HPCON BRAVO today, Oct 16, 2020.

Changing HPCON levels is a risk-based decision that commanders make in consultation with medical leadership and in accordance with CDC guidance, public health data, and collaboration with state and local authorities.

Other installations can request to move to BRAVO once they have achieved the conditions-based required criteria:

- Symptoms: Downward trajectory of influenza-like illnesses and COVID-like illness cases reported over the preceding 14-day period.
- Cases: Downward trajectory of documented COVID-19 cases or of positive tests as a percent of total tests over the preceding 14-day period.

- **Medical Facilities:** Military Medical Treatment Facilities or local hospitals have the capacity to treat all patients without crisis care and have a COVID-19 testing program in place for at-risk healthcare workers and those exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.

Once BRAVO is approved on an installation, access to off-installation facilities and services will be restored to active duty personnel. That means using dine-in restaurants, malls, barber shops, local swimming pools and other services are allowable again (see NAVNORTH EXORD 20-032 for the full list). However, service members must still continue to maintain social distancing and wear a face covering when in close contact with others. In addition, service members must still comply with regional and installation commander's guidance for on-installation services and follow any restrictions and measures established by local civil authorities.

Prudent precautions must still be observed. Installations at HPCON Bravo are considered at a moderate risk for spread of COVID-19. The Navy's recent [NAVADMIN 266/20](#) reinforced this. We must all observe local HPCON requirements, health protection measures and be aware of local community transmission rates. It is important to emphasize personal responsibility (frequent hand washing, cloth face coverings, social distancing, avoiding local areas with high population density, self-monitor, etc), even in the absence of a known outbreak or in an established bubble.

The transition to BRAVO does not mean that the installation or surrounding community is safe from COVID. It only means that conditions on the installation and the surrounding area show favorable downward trends on transmission of the virus. Under BRAVO, we will continue to shelter employees who are especially vulnerable to the disease. We will also continue to encourage and exercise telework whenever possible and feasible, especially for people who are more susceptible to COVID-19 or those living with people who are. Under BRAVO we need to avoid false confidence, complacency and COVID "fatigue". It is important to continue to follow local and installation health protection measures so that we can continue with our mission here in Navy Region Southeast.

Within your working areas, follow CDC guidelines. Everyone should continue to practice social distancing and when that is not practicable for an extended period of time (15 minutes per USFF FRAGO 20-024-013 guidelines) face coverings should be utilized. Face coverings are encouraged when social distancing for at least 15 minutes cannot be maintained, for example in such areas as working in your cubicle, passing people in the hallway, or while transiting to other parts of your building. Unnecessary common areas where people may congregate should either be closed or have enforced social distancing protocols in place.

Other features of BRAVO to expect are that installation facilities will begin to open up. While many facilities may have already opened due to decoupling, schools, childcare, hospital activities, outdoor recreation facilities, gyms, dining, sporting venues, theaters, and more will be able to provide customer services with proper precautions in place.

All these measures are in place for your welfare and to ensure the continued mission of the Navy. The decision to open facilities is being made based on the ability to open in a safe and controlled manner. This is a team effort. Remember, one person not following COVID-19 precautions

could easily be the source for increased spread of the disease and the reason for an installation to be reverted back to CHARLIE. So, Be Smart! Be Well! And as always, Be Safe!