



05 MAR 2020
FM: CHDIRAUX
TO: ALAUX
ALAUX 002/20

Subj: NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) - AUXILIARY AWARENESS

Ref: Auxiliary Manual, COMDTINST M16790.1 (series)

1. Background:

a. In early December 2019, severe respiratory illness cases began to appear in Wuhan, the capital city of Hubei Province, People's Republic of China (PRC). These severe respiratory illness cases were confirmed to be caused by the new Coronavirus (aka, COVID-19).

b. The past week has seen a rapid and significant uptick in our Nation's response to COVID-19. The Department of Homeland Security has been working diligently to protect our Nation from new cases of Coronavirus as all of its agencies, including the U.S. Coast Guard, continue performing their critical missions. The COVID-19 outbreak has elevated senior leaders' concern regarding the safety of Coast Guard members. The Coast Guard's senior leaders are actively monitoring the COVID-19 threat through all means available and are also working in close coordination with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), which is the lead Federal agency for this situation.

c. The transmissibility of the virus and the Coast Guard's global mission set necessitate proactive actions to keep the risk of exposure low. Moreover, safety of all Coast Guard members, and their families, is the highest organizational priority.

d. COVID-19 is characterized by the following:

(1) COVID-19 is capable of spreading via sustained human-to-human transmission.

(2) The exact incubation period and transmission parameters are not yet known. However, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is continuing to use 14 days as the cutoff for screening those with risk factors for the virus.

(3) COVID-19 is thought to spread by respiratory droplets (i.e., sneezing, coughing) and the fecal-oral route. People can best protect themselves and others by coughing/sneezing into a tissue or the crook of their elbow. They should also wash hands frequently, particularly after coughing/sneezing, using the bathroom, and prior to eating and/or drinking. Additional information from the CDC regarding this disease and how to take precautions against it can be found at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

e. Sustained community transmission is occurring in a growing number of countries and territories. For the most up to date status about COVID-19, the following link shows a CDC map of countries and territories affected: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/locations-confirmed-cases.html#map>.

2. Auxiliary Activity Guidelines and Precautions:

a. Auxiliarists are precluded from Coast Guard missions with any risk of exposure to COVID-19.

(1) If not notified in advance by a Coast Guard Order Issuing Authority (OIA) that an Auxiliary assignment to duty is not to be performed due to COVID-19 considerations *and* there is any doubt that such assignment to duty should be performed, then the lead Auxiliarist must contact the OIA prior to performing the assignment to duty to determine whether or not to proceed (this can also be done as part of the pre-patrol brief).

(2) Understanding that many Auxiliary assignments to duty often have an Auxiliarist who effectively serves as the OIA instead of a distinct Coast Guard OIA (e.g., conducting staff officer duties, meetings, training, vessels safety checks, public education classes, marine dealer visits, public outreach events), the cognizant District Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX), through the Auxiliary Chain of Leadership and Management (COLM), will serve as the Coast Guard OIA for the purpose of determining whether or not such activities proceed when COVID-19 considerations exist. The COLM will be the only personnel authorized to contact the DIRAUX Office; individual members must not contact the DIRAUX.

(3) Strong potential exists for the stand-up of Incident Management Teams (IMT) in response to continued COVID-19 expansion. Auxiliarists with Emergency Management expertise are strongly encouraged to offer their availability for such IMT Support through their COLM.

b. The uncertain nature of COVID-19's scope of and potential for continued spread warrant heightened awareness and watchfulness in the course of any assignment to duty as well as everyday life. Auxiliarists should vigilantly maintain good hygiene to safeguard themselves from exposure risks in accordance with CDC guidance provided at its aforementioned web site.

c. Coast Guard OIAs are continually assessing operational risks posed by COVID-19 and developing mitigation strategies in advance of mission performance. Coast Guard OIAs remain the best source for guidance regarding Auxiliary assignments to duty within their AOR. All Auxiliarists are expected to help their OIAs by exercising caution and strictly adhering to all OIA guidance.

d. Auxiliarists should remain mindful that Commanding Officers of Coast Guard installations are empowered to deny entry, to any personnel including Auxiliarists, to ensure the safety and security of the installation.

e. Whether suspecting that exposure to COVID-19 occurred in the course of a Coast Guard assignment to duty or not, Auxiliarists are encouraged to seek medical attention from their personal health providers and follow their health provider's guidance. Suspected COVID-19 exposure pursuant to assignment to duty shall be processed as other Auxiliary injury claims in accordance with provisions of the Auxiliary Manual

(Commandant Instruction M16790.1 (series)).

3. Foreign Travel:

- a. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is issuing Travel Health Notices (THNs) for locations affected by COVID-19. A list of THNs can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>.
- b. Travel to foreign countries or territories affected by any Level THN is highly discouraged. It is highly encouraged that Auxiliarists consult the CDC and DOS travel advisory websites prior to making any decision.
- c. If you choose to travel, both the Department of State (DOS) and the CDC maintain their own travel advisory systems for international travel. International travelers should always check the State and CDC websites prior to any overseas trip. DOS travel advisories can be found at: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/>; and CDC travel notices can be found at: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>.

4. Returning From Travel

- a. Auxiliarists returning to the US from any country or territory, or who travelled through any country or territory, for which CDC has issued a Level 2 or 3 THN, are prohibited from participating in Coast Guard/Auxiliary activities or visit Coast Guard/Auxiliary units until 14 days have passed since leaving that location. This prohibition also applies to Auxiliary personnel who live with someone who is subject to self-monitoring due to travel or exposure history. Auxiliary personnel returning from any country or territory for which CDC has issued a Level 1 THN must consult with their COLM prior to participating in Coast Guard/Auxiliary activities or visiting Coast Guard/Auxiliary units. In any case, Auxiliarists who are advised during airport screening to self-monitor are prohibited from participation in Coast Guard/Auxiliary activities or visit Coast Guard/Auxiliary units and must consult with their COLM at earliest opportunity and advise that they were directed to self-monitor.
- b. When returning from travel meeting the conditions of paragraph 4.a. above, Auxiliarists should remain in their home, except as in sub-paragraph (3) below per CDC government-wide guidelines and 5 U.S.C. 7106(a)(2)(D). During the 14-day interval Auxiliarists should:
 - (1) Self-monitor for onset of fever, cough, and/or trouble breathing. If these symptoms develop, Auxiliarists should contact their physician for further direction.
 - (2) Separate themselves from other people in the home/quarters if residing with roommates/family members and avoid sharing personal items.
 - (3) Practice Social Distancing by remaining six feet away from people outside the home, not traveling, not visiting public/crowded areas, not using public transportation, and avoiding interaction with pets or other animals.
- c. Auxiliarists returning from personal travel from or through a location for which CDC has issued a level 2 or 3 THN are prohibited from participating in Coast Guard/Auxiliary activities or visiting Coast Guard/Auxiliary units during a period of 14 days following the return from the travel. They must advise their District Director of Auxiliary via their COLM and their flotilla commander that they are subject to

this prohibition immediately upon return from such travel. During this 14-day period, Auxiliarists are expected to self-monitor and exercise preventative practices consistent with provisions of paragraphs b (1), (2), and (3) above. Upon completion of the period, Auxiliarists may resume participation in Coast Guard/Auxiliary activities and visiting Coast Guard/Auxiliary units only if they have experienced no COVID-19 or COVID-19-like symptoms. If any such symptoms have been experienced during the 14-day period then the Auxiliarist must provide formal notice from their personal health care provider that they are clear of COVID-19. Commands and the COLM must handle information protected by the Privacy Act of 1974 and/or the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996, IAW existing laws and policies

5. We must all realize and appreciate that COVID-19 has created a dynamic worldwide situation subject to policies and procedures that can rapidly and significantly change. Additional guidance will follow as the situation evolves.

6. Internet Release is Authorized.

[Privacy Policy](#) | GovDelivery is providing this information on behalf of U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and may not use the information for any other purposes.

This email was sent to Email Address
