



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT OF MIDSHIPMEN
UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
101 BUCHANAN ROAD
ANNAPOLIS MARYLAND 21402-5100

1754
Ser 1/192
7 Aug 20

Dear Parents and Families,

As you have likely heard from your midshipman, the Brigade of Midshipmen will be returning to Annapolis for the fall semester. Right now, we intend to bring back about 90% capacity of Bancroft Hall, so approximately 4,100 of 4,600 midshipmen, in order to maintain adequate quarantine and isolation space, and decrease the population within the building. Several alternatives are being explored for appropriate accommodations for the remaining roughly 500 midshipmen, but the goal is for all midshipmen to reside in the Annapolis area this fall.

The return of the Brigade, which began mid-July, will continue to be staggered through early-September, utilizing the same "test-ROM (quarantine)-test" construct used throughout the summer. Upon arrival, midshipmen will be tested for COVID-19, then conduct a 14-day restriction of movement (ROM - quarantine) period, followed by a second COVID-19 test.

Below is a list of some additional details regarding our plan for the Brigade's return and the fall semester. In addition to the precautions we're taking onboard the Naval Academy, in order to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and be successful this semester, we also made the difficult and unpopular decision to limit the Brigade's liberty to the Yard only right now. I ask for your support in encouraging your midshipman to help prevent the potential transmission and spread of COVID-19 by maintaining proper social distancing and disciplined mask wearing.

We recognize this is a challenge for everyone. I am confident we will get through this, together, but I need your assistance to do so. Thank you for playing such important roles in the lives of our midshipmen, and thank you again for your continued, unwavering support of the United States Naval Academy.

With my sincerest gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "TRB", is positioned above the typed name.

T. R. BUCHANAN
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commandant of Midshipmen

Attachment:
Fall 2020 Reform Plan Details

ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF THE REFORM PLAN FOR FALL 2020

- The U.S. Naval Academy will continue to maintain increased cleaning protocols across the Yard with emphasis in Bancroft Hall, academic and physical mission buildings.
- In order to maintain appropriate social distancing during meals, the Brigade will be fed in waves (instead of seated all together during most meals, as is typical for the service academy).
- Faculty, staff, and coaches will conduct daily self-monitoring for influenza-like illness or COVID-like illness and, if symptomatic, refrain from reporting to work and seek medical treatment, as required.
- Flexible personnel policies are being implemented to adjust workspace occupancy levels to support physical distancing requirements as well as address ongoing impacts such as high-risk employees, childcare, etc.
- Work spaces (cubicles, classrooms, shared offices, etc.) are being re-configured to ensure a minimum distancing of six feet between individuals, and virtual meetings will continue to be maximized.
- Academic instruction will be conducted in a hybrid format, partly in-person and partly online, at approximately half capacity. (For example, no more than 10 midshipmen in a classroom that would normally have 20.)
- Masks will be worn by all midshipmen and a minimum of six feet will be maintained between each student in the classroom. Faculty will be masked whenever within 10 feet of students.
- Midshipmen who will begin the fall semester remotely --- a majority of whom are 3rd Class Midshipmen (sophomores) -- will have textbooks mailed directly to where they are currently residing.
- Additionally, random COVID-19 testing of the Naval Academy general population is planned to be implemented beginning Aug. 24, in accordance with NAVADMIN 178/20.