



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

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7 Aug 20

Dear Sponsors,

As you likely have heard from your midshipman, the Brigade of Midshipmen is 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 to provide suitable 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 mid-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. Additional surveillance testing will occur throughout the semester.

Below is a list of a few details regarding our plan regarding the Brigade's return and the fall semester. In addition to the precautions we're taking onboard the Naval Academy, I would ask for your help in preventing the potential transmission and spread of COVID-19. It was a difficult and unpopular decision to make, but in order to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and have a successful start to this semester, right now the midshipmen are authorized liberty on the Yard only.

We recognize that many of you have close relationships with your midshipmen and want to visit with them, bring them meals, etc. Unfortunately, we've observed a recent increase in sponsors and their families gathering with large groups of midshipmen and sharing food and meals with little regard to social distancing and a considerable lack of disciplined mask use.

Coming by to bring them meals or snacks, and briefly saying hello is acceptable, but we must ensure that you provide a positive example to the midshipmen by demonstrating your own adherence to COVID-19 precautions with social distancing and/or mask use. With so many people who are likely asymptomatic carriers of COVID-19, we do not want to risk the health of you and your families, or the midshipmen. If there is not an observable change in this behavior, the base may be forced to temporarily restrict those with DBIDS access.

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 "T.R. Buchanan", is positioned above the printed 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.