



16790
23 July 2020

MEMORANDUM

From: D. E. O'Connell, CAPT
CG District 5 (dp)

To: Fifth District Auxiliary Membership

Subj: Update 2 - NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) - AUXILIARY AWARENESS
AND GUIDANCE

Ref (a) COVID-19: Operations Policy During Extended COVID-19 Pandemic – Update 1,
ALCOAST 186/20
(b) Pandemic and Emerging Infectious Disease Risk Assessment, Enclosure (1) to
COVID-19 PLANORD (July 2020 v. 8)
(c) COVID-19 Risk Assessment Job Aid
(d) Risk for Death from COVID-19 Exposure, Enclosure (4) to COVID-19 PLANORD

1. This guidance updates my guidance of 26 June 2020 to reflect publication of Auxiliary COVID-19 Reconstitution Guidance, enclosure 13, of reference (b). Updates are highlighted in yellow.
2. As society adapts to the COVID-19 threat and the Coast Guard continues to manage personnel and operational risk across all mission areas, this memo provides updated guidance to Fifth District Auxiliarists for a safe return to operations. Safety of all Coast Guard members and their families continues to be the highest organizational priority. All Auxiliary members must adhere to policies and guidance provided by the Directors of Auxiliary (DIRAUX) and the Order Issuing Authority (OIA) for each mission, as well as guidance referenced in this memo.
3. Recreational and commercial boating activity is increasing throughout the District, which is driving increased demand for Coast Guard Auxiliary services. As Auxiliarists return to operations, you MUST adhere to federal, state and local guidelines for use of mandated Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), keep facilities sanitized, use appropriate social distancing, and only operate under explicit approval from the DIRAUX or OIA.
4. Per reference (a), ALCOAST 186/20, Auxiliary operations may continue, in accordance with guidance outlined in ALAUX 003/20. Your Director of Auxiliary will manage the timeline of fully returning to Auxiliary operations. The timeline and rate of increase in Auxiliary operations will be informed by the evolving impacts of COVID-19 including local rates of infection and availability of community services. Prior to any activity outside the home,

Auxiliarists shall assess their readiness and ability to undertake the activity and abide by the policy set forth in reference (b) enclosure 13. This assessment will include the availability of proper PPE, their health history, the health of those in their household, the health of other members they may be interacting with, and the overall risk versus gain of the activity.

5. 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, vessel safety checks, public education classes, marine dealer visits, and public outreach events). Per ALCOAST 186/20, the following OIA procedures should be followed:
 - a. For Auxiliary activities involving the administration of the Auxiliary (e.g. conducting staff officer duties, meetings, training, etc), DIRAUX will serve as the Coast Guard OIA for the purpose of determining whether or not such activities proceed. The Auxiliary Chain of Leadership and Management (COLM) will be the only members authorized to coordinate with the DIRAUX office for such activities; individual members must not contact the DIRAUX office.
 - b. For Auxiliary activities involving Sector -specific functions (e.g. vessel safety checks, public education classes, marine dealer visits, public outreach events), the cognizant unit and/or Sector AUXLO shall serve as the Coast Guard OIA for the purpose of determining whether or not such activities proceed. The local Auxiliary COLM or Auxiliary Sector Coordinator (ASC) shall be the only members authorized to coordinate with the unit or Sector AUXLO for such activities; individual members must not contact the unit or Sector.
 - c. Prior to patrol orders or being assigned to duty by a Coast Guard OIA, the lead Auxiliarist for the patrol request or mission must contact the OIA 2 to 5 days prior to the assignment of duty to determine whether to proceed. This requirement is not applicable to emergent SAR cases.
6. OIA's in conjunction with COLM, must perform an Operational Risk Assessment in determining the risk vs gain of requested Coast Guard Auxiliary missions. The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Pandemic and Emerging Infectious Diseases (PEID) Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Risk Assessment Guidance, reference (b), will be used prior to mission execution. This guidance, an enclosure to reference (c), provides a comprehensive framework to determine risk exposure when interacting with the public. This document outlines the PEID OSH Risk Assessment process for the Coast Guard, and breaks down the risk exposure, based on mission duties and tasks, and appropriate control measures. Risk is described as a function of the *probability* of coming in contact with a hazard, pandemic or emerging infectious disease, and the *severity* of the consequence if the hazard manifests itself. Per the DHS PEID Risk Assessment guidance, the probability element in the risk equation is determined by evaluating Exposure Time, denoted by "T", and Exposure Intensity, denoted by "I". This guidance should be used in conjunction with normal Operational Risk Management (ORM) process for Auxiliary missions that involve the potential for public interaction. A Risk Assessment Job Aid template, reference (c), has been

developed to assist members in determining the Exposure Time and Exposure Intensity as a part of their ORM process.

7. Additionally, all Auxiliarists shall meet the training requirements and use the *Auxiliary COVID-19 High Risk Form* in enclosure 13 of reference (b) to certify their status with respect to COVID-19 high-risk criteria and send them to their respective OIA.
8. After assessing and abiding by the above factors and risk assessment, the cognizant OIA may request an Auxiliarist(s) to conduct a Coast Guard mission activity. **Auxiliarists are prohibited from Coast Guard missions or Auxiliary activity that require use of Band C or D control measure in Reference (b), are inconsistent with state/local guidance, or are not supported by the Parent Command.** Auxiliarist must work with their OIA and COLM to ensure they have proper PPE, and the PPE must be used in accordance with policy. In addition, Auxiliarist must have a cloth face covering of neutral solid coloring (e.g. navy, blue, black, gray, or white) with them during any activity. The cloth face covering shall be worn when Auxiliarist cannot appropriately social distance themselves from others by maintaining six feet of physical separation.
9. People of all ages can be infected by COVID-19; however, greater susceptibility to severe illness and death has been demonstrated in people over 65 years of age and those with pre-existing medical conditions (e.g. immunocompromised, chronic respiratory disease, diabetes, heart disease). In particular individuals 65-84 years of age are at an increased risk for hospitalization (31-59%), admission to intensive care (11-31%), and death (4-11%). Additionally, there is data that shows a strong relationship between risk of death and pre-existing medical conditions. Reference (d) should be used as part of the ORM process. CDC's guidance for high risk populations is discussed on the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>.
10. Auxiliary members in high risk populations may choose to execute orders and carry out Auxiliary missions and activities outside the home and/or involving public interaction, but are not required to do so. In making this decision Auxiliarist should consider members of high risk populations living in their household. All Auxiliary members are encouraged to refrain from participating in any mission unless they feel comfortable and safe executing the activity. If any Auxiliarist feels compelled to execute a mission they are not comfortable with due to COVID-19 concerns, they should contact the DIRAUX.
11. The following general guidelines apply for all Fifth District Auxiliary. They may be modified by written memo by DIRAUX North or South to be more restrictive to account for local conditions and align with active duty components:
 - a. In-person training sessions or meeting/conferences may occur consistent with state and local guidelines for number of participants. Social distancing and face coverings should also be employed. However, these activities should be conducted via electronic means to the maximum extent possible.

- b. Auxiliary public affairs events are authorized consistent with state and local guidelines for number of participants at the event. The wearing of face coverings and social distancing are also mandated.
 - c. Other Auxiliary activities involving interaction with the public (all Auxiliary assigned to duty or activities not in direct support of a Coast Guard unit (e.g., shore-side vessel safety checks, public education classes, marine dealer visits, etc.) can be conducted on a case-by-case basis with the approval of the OIA/ DIRAUX consistent with this guidance.
 - d. Auxiliary operational activities involving direct support of Coast Guard units with no interaction with the public (e.g. AUXFS, comms watchstander, AUXAIR, surface patrol, etc.) are authorized consistent with this guidance. Activities that involve interaction with the public can be conducted on a case-by-case basis with the approval of the OIA/ DIRAUX consistent with this guidance.
 - e. Auxiliary activities in support of Coast Guard clinics can be conducted by qualified Auxiliary Health Care Providers who have been specifically requested by name to assist a Coast Guard clinic in the Fifth District. All requests for Coast Guard Auxiliary Health Care Providers must be approved by the DIRAUX and coordinated with the Chief Medical Officer of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and the HSWL Service Center Operational Medicine Division.
 - f. Auxiliary members experiencing symptoms of cold, flu, or other illness are prohibited from participating in CG/AUX activities and/or visiting CG/AUX units until they are symptom free or have a note from a qualified medical professional indicating they are COVID-19 free. Individuals that have tested positive for COVID-19, or have had contact with anyone that has tested positive shall not perform Auxiliary operations unless symptom free for 14 days. Additionally, anyone with the following symptoms shall not perform Auxiliary operations: Fever (>100.4), new persistent cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pains, headaches, sore throat, and/or new loss of taste or smell.
 - g. Auxiliary members are prohibited from traveling and attending meetings, conferences, training, or events in support of the Coast Guard Auxiliary (e.g. National Auxiliary events, “C” Schools, etc.) outside the Fifth District.
 - h. Auxiliary members returning from leisure travel via commercial means (airline, train, ships, bus. Etc.) are prohibited from participating in CG/AUX activities and/or visiting CG/AUX units until 14 days have lapsed from the return date.
12. This policy guidance will be updated as the situation evolves. Auxiliarists are encouraged to hold training seminars to discuss this guidance as it pertains to their personnel and missions. All guidance provided shall be followed to ensure a safe work environment and the well-being of our members and their families. DIRAUX staff is available to provide additional

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clarification or training as needed, and may be requested through the Auxiliary Chain of Leadership and Management.

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