

BLUF

In NAVADMIN 038/23, the US Navy updated its COVID-19 Standardized Operational Guidance to reflect the removal of the Navy's COVID-19 vaccine mandates at all levels, the shift from a crisis to a steady-state COVID-19 posture, and the end of administrative COVID case reporting.

Who needs to know?

- Commanders and Sailors
- Medical Department Representatives
- Administrative COVID-19 case reporters by UIC

What you need to know – key points

- NAVADMIN 005/23 directed commands to discontinue administrative separations and stop any new adverse administrative actions associated with refusing the COVID-19 vaccine.
- NAVADMIN 038/23 further specified that **under no circumstances** shall a Commander mandate any Navy service member receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Additionally, COVID-19 vaccination status shall not be a consideration in assessing individual service member suitability for deployment or other operational missions.
- COVID-19 vaccination status *may* impact Sailor eligibility for liberty in foreign ports, depending on host nation requirements.
- Administrative (SharePoint) unit reporting of routine COVID-19 cases is no longer required (OPREP-3's **are** still required if COVID-19 or other diseases cause an operational impact).

Links

- All Hands shall maintain health and safety IAW current DOD Force Health Protection Guidance at: <https://www.defense.gov/Spotlights/Coronavirus-DOD-Response/Latest-DOD-Guidance>
- Medical providers should advise Commanders using the following COVID-19 Operational Risk Management (ORM) Matrix: <https://dvidshub.net/r/x6bf2n>

FAQ

Q. Can a Commander require a Sailor to get vaccinated to go on deployment?

A. Commanders **shall not** mandate any Navy Service member receive the COVID-19 vaccine for any reason.

Q. Can a Commander exclude a Sailor from deployment due to COVID-19 vaccination status?

A. Commanders, as advised by Medical Providers, **shall not** prohibit Navy Service members from serving on deployment or operational missions due to COVID-19 vaccination status.

Q. Will masking still be required?

A. Commanders may implement Health Protection Measures (HPM), including masking, at their discretion in support of operational safety and effectiveness.

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