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Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



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16790
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MEMORANDUM

From:  R. J. Schultz, CAPT
CGD ONE (dp)

To: First Coast Guard District Auxiliary

Subj: UPDATE 1 - NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) – D1 AUXILIARY
AWARENESS AND GUIDANCE

Ref: (a) Auxiliary Manual, COMDTINST M16790.1 (series)
(b) My memo 16790 dated 13 Mar 2020

1. The First District will begin the first phase of reconstituting the Auxiliary into Coast Guard operations on June 4, 2020.
2. As restrictions continue to be lifted in states throughout the First District, many of you have asked about returning to Auxiliary activities. We are focused on preparing for the safe return of our workforce and ensuring we make informed decisions about how and when we will reconstitute. We are not yet ready to bring a significant number of our workforce back to regular operations or activities. It is crucial to remember that the transmissibility of the virus and the continued demands to maintain readiness for our Coast Guard missions continue to necessitate proactive actions to keep the risk of exposure low. This is especially important as we work towards reconstituting unit personnel and facilities. Safety of all Coast Guard members, and their families, continues to be the highest organizational priority. First District Operational Commanders will begin lifting restrictions on staffing and unit activities by implementing sound risk assessment and mitigation strategies with concurrence from the chain of command.
3. In the upcoming weeks and months we will implement measures that will allow us to gradually incorporate more Auxiliary personnel as we keep close watch on the local rates of infection and availability of community services. Prior to any activity outside the home, Auxiliarists shall assess their personal ability to undertake the activity. 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 vs. gain of the activity.

4. Approving Auxiliary activities will be processed in a phased approach and determined by several factors. During this first phase of reconstituting Auxiliary activities the following factors apply:

- a. People above 65 years of age and people who have underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes appear to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance for the higher risk population is discussed on the following CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>. Members who fall in the CDC's higher risk category will be restricted to conducting Auxiliary activities through electronic means (e.g., in-home online activities) and through orders approved by a Coast Guard Ordering Issue Authority (OIA), the cognizant unit CO/OIC, involving no physical interaction with the public.
- b. Since locations throughout the District are experiencing varying levels of COVID-19 threats, the current State and local government's guidance on shelter in place and social and business restrictions shall be applied to determine if an Auxiliary activity can take place.
- c. The current Coast Guard OIA unit or Parent Command guidance and posture shall also be applied to determine if Auxiliary activity can take place.

5. After assessing and abiding by the above factors, the cognizant OIA, who has determined a need for Auxiliary support, may request an Auxiliarist(s) to conduct a Coast Guard mission or Auxiliary activity. Auxiliarists are precluded from Coast Guard missions or Auxiliary activity with any moderate to high risk of exposure to COVID-19. Auxiliarists 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 Auxiliarists cannot appropriately social distance themselves from others by maintaining six feet of physical separation.

6. During this first phase of First District Auxiliary reconstitution, the following activities are permitted:

- a. Auxiliary operational activities in direct support of Coast Guard units (e.g. AUXFS, comms watchstander, AUXAIR, surface patrols, etc.) can be conducted on a case-by-case basis with the approval of the OIA (i.e., Sector Commander, Commanding Officer, or Officer in Charge).
- b. Qualified Auxiliary Vessel Examiners (VEs) will be permitted to perform facility exams and vessel safety checks with the approval of the District Commodore, Operational Training Officer (OTO), and the DIRAUX. Requests to perform facility exams and vessel safety checks must be made at least 5 days prior to the scheduled event. The qualified VE will interact with only one member of the public when conducting each vessel exam or vessel safety check. All social distancing guidelines shall be followed at all times. Proper personal protective equipment (PPE) shall be worn to include face

coverings and nitrile gloves. Boat owners will be instructed to point out items on the vessel from a socially acceptable distance greater than six feet. All PPE will be sanitized or replaced after each exam. Upon completion of the VE mission each day, uniforms must be washed.

7. During this first phase of First District Auxiliary reconstitution, the following in person activities are still prohibited and shall not be approved by the DIRAUX or cognizant unit or Sector:

- a. In person training sessions or meetings/conferences. These activities shall continue to be conducted via electronic means (GoToMeeting, skype, WebEx, etc).
- b. Auxiliary public affairs events (e.g. boat shows, air shows). Auxiliary public affairs activities that can be conducted electronically (e.g. in-home online activities) are authorized.
- c. Auxiliary activities in support of Coast Guard clinics.
- d. Auxiliary members are prohibited to travel and attend meetings, conferences, training, or events in support of Coast Guard Auxiliary (e.g. National Auxiliary events, "C" Schools, etc) outside the First District.
- e. Auxiliary members returning from leisure travel via commercial means (airline, train, bus, etc) are prohibited from participating in Coast Guard or Auxiliary activities and/or visiting Coast Guard or Auxiliary units until 14 days have lapsed from the return date and they experience no symptoms of COVID-19 during this period. COVID-19 symptoms include cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, and loss of taste or smell.

8. 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/global-covid-19/world-map.html>.

9. The uncertain nature of the scope of COVID-19 and potential for continued spread warrant heightened awareness and watchfulness in the course of any assignment to duty as well as everyday life. First Coast Guard District Auxiliarists must vigilantly maintain good hygiene to safeguard themselves from exposure risks in accordance with CDC guidance provided at the aforementioned web sites.

10. 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.

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