

THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR GOVERNMENT HOUSE Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802 340-774-0001

TWENTY-SIXTH SUPPLEMENTAL EXECUTIVE ORDER AND PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS MODIFYING CONDITIONS OF THE "SAFER-AT-HOME" PHASE IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, On March 13, 2020, the Governor issued the Executive Order and Proclamation Declaring a State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 – CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC ("Declaration of a State of Emergency"), and the Government has been coordinating the Territory's response and enforcing protective actions to address "COVID-19", a public health emergency that currently requires the Government to act and provide for the health, safety, and welfare of residents and visitors located in the Virgin Islands; and

WHEREAS, On April 2, 2020, the President of the United States declared that a major disaster exists in the Territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands-based on COVID-19, and this major disaster declaration has not been lifted; and

WHEREAS, From March 13, 2020, through February 2021, the Governor has issued subsequent Executive Orders or Supplements with additional requirements and lifting of other restrictions of previous Executive Orders and Supplements to return to the "Stay-at-Home Phase"; and

WHEREAS, The "Safer-at-Home Phase" requires continuous guidance to be given to the public about what is restricted and permissible during this phase and while still within a "State of Emergency" due to the danger and threat of Covid-19; and

WHEREAS, The Executive Order Declaring a State of Emergency dated March 13, 2020, invoked the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Act, 23 V.I.C. § 1001 - 1016 and authorized the Governor to exercise the powers and duties set forth therein to direct and aid the response to, recovery from, and guidance for the mitigation as well as response to emergencies; and

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WHEREAS, The Virgin Islands Department of Health ("DOH") received confirmation that, as of July 24, 2021, as many as 4,375 persons, including 35 deceased persons, tested positive for COVID-19 in the Virgin Islands, and additional testing of individuals for COVID-19 are still being made or pending; and

WHEREAS, Imposing guidelines and restrictions during the Territory's "Safer-at-Home Phase" is vital to the protection, health, safety, and welfare of residents and visitors of the Territory as well as continuing the response and mitigation process;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Albert Bryan Jr, Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, under the authority granted to me by Section 11 of the Revised Organic Act of 1954 (as amended), 23 V.I.C. § 1005, and pursuant to all the afore-cited sections of the Virgin Islands Code, as well as all previous Executive Orders issued from March 13, 2020, through July 15, 2021, as amended, supplemented, renewed, and extended, do hereby ORDER:

SECTION 1. The *Twenty-First Supplemental Executive Order* issued on January 27, 2021, as amended, is further amended by striking Section 4 and inserting a new Sections 4 in its place as follows:

"SECTION 4. Travel Restrictions and Operations: The following ORDERS shall remain in full force and effect so long as the Territory remains in the State of Emergency declared on March 13, 2020, as amended, supplemented, extended, and renewed unless earlier lifted or until rescinded or superseded by another applicable Executive Order by the Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands:

- A. All travelers, by sea or by air, are required to comply with Travelers Advisory posted by the V.I. Department of Tourism and the V.I. Port Authority, including but not limited to the wearing of facial coverings, temperature scan, testing, and quarantine. Facial coverings shall be required to be worn at all times on board all public transportation ferries between all islands in or entering the Territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- B. Every person who travels to or enters the Territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands, before boarding the aircraft or vessel, must present one of the following:
 - 1) a COVID-19 negative PCR or antigen test result obtained within 5-days of commencement of travel to the U.S. Virgin Islands, OR
 - 2) a COVID-19 positive Antibody test result received within four (4) months of travel to the U.S. Virgin Islands, OR
 - 3) a vaccination card showing completed COVID-19 vaccination administered in the U.S. Virgin Islands as approved by the Department of Health.

Proof of testing must be uploaded through the U.S. Virgin Islands Travel Screening Portal (https://usvitravelportal.com/) while vaccination certification may be

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selected in the portal. Travelers and Passengers must receive, through the portal, final clearance to enter the U.S. Virgin Islands.

- C. Travel from the British Virgin Islands: Any person who travels to or enters the Territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands from the British Virgin Islands, before boarding the aircraft or vessel, must present a COVID-19 negative PCR or antigen test result obtained within 48 hours of commencement of travel to the U.S. Virgin Islands uploaded through the U.S. Virgin Islands Travel Screening Portal (https://usvitravelportal.com/) and receive, through the portal, the final clearance to enter the U.S. Virgin Islands. (All other travel testing and vaccination documents accepted under Subsection B above do not apply to travelers coming from the British Virgin Islands)
- D. Every person covered under this section shall be responsible for all associated costs, including transportation, lodging, food, and medical care.
- E. This Section and all travel restrictions apply to all persons age 5 years and older, including U.S.V.I. residents, traveling to or through the Territory from any port of embarkation outside of the Territory, regardless of destination outside of the Territory."

<u>SECTION 2</u>. All other terms, requirements, and conditions of the March 13, 2020, State of Emergency, as amended, supplemented, renewed, and extended shall continue in full force and effect unless earlier lifted, further amended, or extended by order of the Governor of the United States Virgin Islands

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands to be affixed at Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, this 27^{th} day of July, A.D., 2021.

Albert Bryan Ji Governor

ATTEST:

Tregenza A. Roach

L. Governor