



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

**THIRTY-FIRST 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

WHEREAS, the Virgin Islands Department of Health ("DOH") received confirmation

that, as of October 25, 2021, as many as 7145 persons, including 80 deceased persons, tested positive for COVID-19 in the Virgin Islands, with 83 active cases, 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 October 4, 2021, as amended, supplemented, renewed, and extended, do hereby ORDER:

SECTION 1. *Effective Friday October 29, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.*, unless further amended by order of the Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, the *Twenty-First Supplemental Executive Order* issued on January 27, 2021, as amended, is further amended as follows:

A. In Section 6. B. Restaurants, by striking paragraphs 4 and 5 in their entirety and renumbering the remaining paragraphs to remove the time limitations on the sale of alcohol and midnight closure for restaurants. Restaurants shall operate in accordance with the limits of their Business Licenses;

B. In Section 6. B. Restaurants, by inserting paragraphs 6 and 7 to read as follows:

"6. Live music and Disc Jockey (DJ) entertainment is allowed in licensed establishments pursuant to the COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR RESTAURANTS, BARS AND NIGHTCLUBS, issued on May 30, 2020, as amended, and any further guidance from the V.I. Department of Health.

7. Dancing is allowed in restaurants as long as the persons dancing are wearing masks and the establishment is in compliance with all other rules applicable to their patrons, including but not limited to the rules on seated service, capacity, and social distancing."

C. In Section 6. C. Bars, Nightclubs, and Cabarets, by striking paragraphs 4 and 5 in their entirety and renumbering the remaining paragraphs to remove the time limitations on the sale of alcohol and midnight closure for bars. Bars shall operate in accordance with the limits of their Business Licenses;

D. In Section 6. C. Bars, Nightclubs, and Cabarets, by striking paragraph 8 and inserting a new paragraph 8 to read as follows:

"8. Live music and Disc Jockey (DJ) entertainment is allowed in licensed

establishments pursuant to the COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR RESTAURANTS, BARS AND NIGHTCLUBS, issued on May 30, 2020, as amended, and any further guidance from the V.I. Department of Health.”;

- E. In Section 6. C. Bars, Nightclubs, and Cabarets, by striking paragraph 10 and inserting a new paragraph 10 to read as follows:

“10. Dancing is allowed as long as the persons dancing are properly wearing masks and the establishment is in compliance with all other rules applicable to their patrons, including but not limited to all rules on seated service, capacity, and social distancing.”;

- F. In Section 1. D. Beaches, to allow activities on the beaches, by striking the language in its entirety and replacing it with:

“D. Beaches: All beaches in the Territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands shall remain open as managed prior to the State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 – CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, in compliance with all social distancing, masking, and mass gathering rules above.”

- G. In Section 1. C. by striking the first sentence and inserting the following language in its place: *“For purposes of the Safer-at-Home Phase, a “mass gathering” is defined as any event or convening that brings together more than 15 people in a single room or single space at the same time. Gatherings of up to fifty (50) persons OR up to two hundred and fifty (250) fully vaccinated persons may be approved by DOH. Standard service in restaurants and bars within their allowable capacity and in compliance with Section 6 below does not constitute a mass gathering.”*

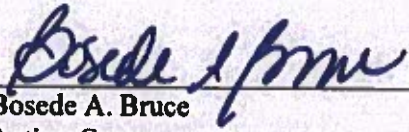
SECTION 2. the *Twenty-Third Supplemental Executive Order* issued on April 19, 2021, as amended, is further amended in Section 1. D. in internal paragraph 4, by striking the language in its entirety and inserting a new paragraph 4 to read as follows:

*“4) **HIGH-RISK Sports:** All organized contact sports, including but not limited to basketball, volleyball, and football, and organized team sports, to include leagues, “pick-up games”, scholastic athletic associations, but not exclusive to those named, are authorized to have training exercises that do not include player contact. All high-risk sports are prohibited from conducting games and organized group activities unless authorized by the Commissioner of the Department of Health or her designee.”*

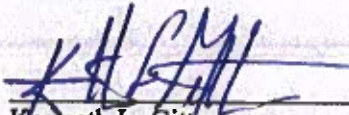
SECTION 3. All other terms, requirements, and conditions of the March 13, 2020 State of Emergency, as amended, supplemented, renewed, and extended shall continue in full force and effect unless earlier lifted, further amended, or extended by order of the Governor of the United States Virgin Islands.

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 Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 28th day of October, A.D., 2021.




Bosede A. Bruce
Acting Governor

ATTEST:


Kenneth L. Gittens
Acting Lieutenant Governor