



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

**THIRTY-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 2022, 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 "Safer-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 March 10, 2022, as many as 15,556 persons, including 109 deceased persons, tested positive for COVID-19 in the Virgin Islands, with 32 active cases, and additional testing of individuals for COVID-19 are ongoing or pending; and

WHEREAS, modifying the 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 February 28, 2022, as amended, supplemented, renewed, and extended, do hereby ORDER as follows:

SECTION 1. Effective immediately, Section 1 of the *35th Supplemental Executive Order* issued on February 28, 2022, is amended by striking the section in its entirety and replacing it with the following new Section 1:

SECTION 1. General COVID-19 Orders: 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 of the Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands:

A. *Masks:*

- 1) Masks or facial coverings are not required to be worn in the Territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands, except:
 - i. in indoor and outdoor spaces at all ports of entry;
 - ii. in indoor and outdoor spaces at public, private, and parochial schools; and
 - iii. in all hospitals, nursing homes, and healthcare facilities.
- 2) Notwithstanding the above, masks or facial coverings do not have to be worn during active exercise, indoor or outdoor.
- 3) Businesses may establish their own policies for mask-wearing by employees and customers in their establishment.

B. *Social Distancing:* In coordination with the Commissioner of the DOH and in alignment with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), all persons are recommended to maintain social distancing of at least **four** feet away from other people that are not of their same household, whenever possible. All individuals are urged to continue washing

their hands, utilizing hand sanitizer, and practicing proper respiratory etiquette (including coughing into the elbow) as often as possible.

- C. **Mass Gatherings:** any event or convening that brings together more than 999 persons in a single room or single space at the same time must obtain approval from the Commissioner of Health or her designee, in addition to any other regulatory agency with jurisdiction, prior to the gathering. "Spaces" shall include but are not limited to an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, theater, restaurant, bar, parking lot, or any other confined indoor or outdoor space. This includes all parades, fairs, campaign events, festivals, and camping on public beaches or parks."

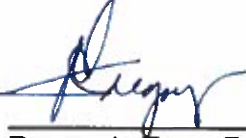
SECTION 2. All other terms, requirements, and conditions of the March 13, 2020, State of Emergency, as amended, supplemented, renewed, and extended shall continue in full force and effect unless earlier lifted, further amended, or extended by order of the Governor of the United States Virgin Islands.

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 14th day of March, A.D., 2022.




Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor

ATTEST:


Donna A. Frett-Gregory
Acting Lt. Governor