



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

**SIXTH SUPPLEMENTAL EXECUTIVE ORDER AND PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR
OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
ESTABLISHING THE SAFER AT HOME ORDER
IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the undersigned issued Executive Order and Proclamation Declaring a State of Emergency COVID-19 – CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC dated March 13, 2020, to coordinate the Territory’s response and protective actions to address the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) public health emergency and to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of residents and visitors located in the Virgin Islands (“Declaration of a State of Emergency”) and have supplemented such Executive Order and Proclamation with additional Orders; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned established a VI Task Force on COVID-19 Preparedness, Response and Mitigation to work with territorial, local and federal partners in responding to challenges posed by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared the ongoing COVID-19 a pandemic of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant an emergency declaration for all states, tribes, territories, and the District of Columbia pursuant to Section 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 5121-5207 (the ‘Stafford Act’); and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States pursuant to Sections 201 and 301 of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. § 1601, *et. seq.* and consistent with Section 1135 of the Social Security Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 1320b-5), declared a national emergency that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency beginning January 20, 2020, which continues in place presently; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned designated the Commissioner of the Virgin Islands Department of Health as the Incident Commander to direct the territorial response and directed the Commissioner of the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services to provide any necessary support to the Incident Commander; and

WHEREAS, Declaration of a State of Health Emergency Executive Order dated March

13, 2020, invoked the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Act, 23 V.I.C. § 1001 - 1016 and authorizes the Governor to exercise the powers and duties set forth therein to direct and aid the response to, recovery from, and mitigation against emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the DOH has organized a Public Health Incident Management Team to manage the public health impacts of COVID-19 in the Territory; and

WHEREAS, first responders and health care professionals remain integral to ensuring the Territory is best situated to respond to and mitigate the threat posed by COVID-19 and such first responders and health care professionals should have the availability of all necessary personal protective equipment and continue to follow all necessary response protocols; and

WHEREAS, on March 29, 2020, due to the rising number cases of COVID-19 across the country and the projections for the continued exponential growth of the number of cases, the President of the United States of America extended the voluntary national shutdown and application of the CDC Social Distancing Guidelines to April 30, 2020; 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

WHEREAS, the Virgin Islands Department of Health (“DOH”) received confirmation from the Center for Disease Control (“CDC”) that sixty-six (66) persons, including four (4) deceased persons, have tested positive for COVID-19 and currently await results of tests conducted on additional individuals; and

WHEREAS, necessary actions taken imposing guidelines and restrictions to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Territory from the potentially dangerous effects of the COVID-19 has hampered the ability of the government and private sector from normally conducting business; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Albert Bryan, Jr., Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, by virtue of the authority granted to me by Section 11 of the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, and afore-cited sections of the Virgin Islands Code, in addition to the Executive Order dated March 13, 2020, declaring a State of Health Emergency in the U.S. Virgin Islands, and subsequent Supplemental Executive Orders dated March 20, 2020, March 23, 2020, March 30, 2020, April 6, 2020, and April 22, 2020, as renewed and extended, do hereby ORDER:

SECTION 1. The Stay at Home and Mass Gathering restrictions and dates contained within the Executive Orders issued in response to the COVID-19 State of Emergency in the Territory of the Virgin Islands are amended and extended as follows:

- A. Section 1 B.ii.1. of the Supplemental Executive Order declared on March 23, 2020, as amended and extended, ordering the public to Stay at Home, shall sunset on **May 4, 2020, at 6:00 a.m.** at which time the public is advised to stay Safer-at-Home and only leave as

necessary pursuant to the terms and conditions of the STAY SAFER AT HOME ORDER below; and

- B. Section 1 B.ii.2. of the Supplemental Executive Order declared on March 23, 2020, as extended, ordering that all non-essential businesses shall cease in-person business operations and shall require their employees to stay home, shall sunset on **May 4, 2020, at 6:00 a.m.** and shall be replaced by the terms and conditions of the STAY SAFER AT HOME ORDER below;
- C. Section 1 B.ii.3. of the Supplemental Executive Order declared on March 23, 2020, as extended, ordering all hotels, guest-houses, villas, bed and breakfasts, shared economy hospitality bookings, AirBnBs, any temporary vacation housing, charter vessels, or any similar business known by any other terminology, to not accept, receive, check-in, or register any new guest, shall continue in full force and effect until **May 31, 2020, at 11:59 p.m.**, unless earlier lifted, amended, or extended by order of the Governor of the United States Virgin Islands;
- D. **STAY SAFER AT HOME ORDER:** Beginning **May 4, 2020, at 6:00 a.m.**, a STAY SAFER AT HOME ORDER goes into effect. During this Stay Safer at Home period, the following terms and conditions shall apply:
 - 1. All patrons are required to wear a face mask or facial covering when entering a business. Employees of businesses are required to wear a facial covering or mask during customer interactions and whenever possible during work activities. Any individuals gathering for any purpose are required to wear face masks, unless all individuals present are of the same household. Children under two years of age or anyone with acute respiratory issues shall be exempt from the requirement to wear a face mask.
 - 2. Private healthcare facilities are allowed to resume all procedures as long as all safety protocols are observed.
 - 3. Private business offices currently closed are allowed to re-open. All employees that are not critical to in-person operations or that are not classified as essential are recommended to continue working from home or remotely.
 - 4. Retail stores are allowed to re-open but shall not permit more than 10 individuals into the establishment at any given time. This limitation of 10 individuals shall not apply to establishments previously exempted pursuant to the March 23, 2020 order at Section 1, A.ii. to include grocery stores, big-box stores, grocery stores, pharmacies, and fuel service stations. Still, the practice of social distancing of six feet or more between persons must be maintained.
 - 5. Athletic facilities such as gyms, tennis courts, and golf courses are allowed to re-open as long as:
 - a. recommended social distancing requirement of 6 feet or more between

- individuals is maintained, and group limits are set within the mass gathering limitations.
- b. All equipment must be properly sanitized before and after each use and not shared.
 - c. The overall facility must be sanitized regularly throughout the day. Hand sanitizer must be provided for all patrons entering the establishment.
 - d. Contact sports, including but not limited to basketball, volleyball, and football, are strictly prohibited.
6. Bowling alleys and movie theaters are allowed to re-open but are prohibited from selling food and beverages or hosting parties. Patrons and staff must adhere to the facial covering rule at all times.
7. Personal Grooming services such as barbershops, hair salons, nail salons, massage therapists are permitted to re-open as long as:
- a. Clients are received based on pre-scheduled appointments to allow for no more than 10 people, including employees, in the establishment.
 - b. Personal protective equipment, including facial masks or cloth coverings consistent with CDC guidelines, are to be worn by all individuals present, patrons and employees.
 - c. All equipment, furniture, and counters are disinfected after use with each client, and the facility is sanitized regularly throughout the day. Hand sanitizer must be provided for all patrons entering the establishment.
 - d. Clients and customers must be at a distance of at least 6ft from each other at all times.
 - e. All customers awaiting services are to wait outside of the business establishment. No more than 5 customers will be allowed to wait at any given time.
 - f. Additional guidelines for these types of services will be provided by the Department of Health.
8. Although we encourage churches to protect their members by continuing to provide virtual services to the greatest extent possible, churches are allowed to re-open to conduct service, so long as:
- a. No more than 50 individuals, including pastoral leaders, employees, and volunteers, are allowed in the establishment.
 - b. Everyone, including the pastoral leaders, employees, and volunteers, wears a facial covering.
 - c. Religious leaders may conduct service without a mask provided that they stay 10 ft away from all persons while unmasked.
9. All bars, casinos, gaming facilities, and nightclubs in the Territory of the Virgin Islands shall remain closed.
10. All restaurants and food trucks shall operate on a “drive-through,” “take-out,” or “delivery” basis only, no in-house dining shall be allowed in any restaurant or at any food truck.
11. Visitation to nursing homes is prohibited.

12. Childcare facilities are to remain closed subject to guidance provided by the Department of Human Services.
13. The School Closure Order issued in Section 2 of the Supplemental Executive Order declared on March 23, 2020, shall apply to all public, private, and parochial school campuses for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, unless otherwise amended by order of the Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands.
14. The Government Operations Restricted to Essential Services issued in Section 3 of the Supplemental Executive Order declared on March 23, 2020, shall continue in full force and effect until otherwise amended by order of the Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands.
15. Vulnerable individuals are recommended to remain on the Stay at Home protocol. For the purposes of this Executive Order, vulnerable individuals are individuals who are 65 years and older, individuals with chronic lung disease or severe asthma, individuals with serious heart conditions, individuals who are immunocompromised, and pregnant women.
16. All employers are to:
 - a. encourage frequent breaks to wash hands,
 - b. require employees to stay home when showing any signs or symptoms of sickness,
 - c. wherever possible allow employees that are not critical to in-person operations or that are not classified as essential to continue working from home or remotely.
 - d. wherever possible reduce the number of employees in contact with each other as much as possible by establishing shifts and operate with the recommended social distancing requirement of 6 feet or more between individuals
- E. The prohibition against Mass Gatherings of more than ten (10) persons issued in Section 1.A.i.2. of the Supplemental Executive Order declared on March 23, 2020, shall continue in full force and effect until and unless earlier lifted or further amended by order of the Governor of the United States Virgin Islands
- F. All other terms, requirements, and conditions of the March 13, 2020, State of Emergency, as amended, 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.

SECTION 2. The requirement of personal appearance or in-person attendance at any conference, meeting or hearing before any private corporate board or any Board, Commission, or Committee of the Government of the Virgin Islands or its governmental subdivisions, departments, agencies, instrumentalities, or public corporations under the laws and Rules and Regulations of the U.S. Virgin Islands shall be authorized to include appearance via live audio-video technology between the necessary parties or persons, which allows for observation, direct interaction, and

communication during the meeting or hearing or conference, provided that the following conditions are met:

- A. Each person attending must affirmatively represent where he or she is physically situated.
- B. Any act performed through live video conference in compliance with this order shall have the same force, effect, and validity as any other official act performed in compliance with U.S. Virgin Islands law, and may be relied upon to the same extent as any other act under U.S. Virgin Islands law.
- C. The minutes or transcript of such conference, meeting, or hearing must contain an acknowledgment stating which parties or persons appeared remotely pursuant to this Executive Order.

SECTION 3. Pursuant to section 8 of the Governor’s Declaration of a State of Emergency Executive Order dated March 13, 2020, as amended, renewed, and extended, the provision of this Executive Order shall be enforced by all law enforcement officers.

SECTION 4. The Effective Date of this Executive Order (as amended) is March 13, 2020, and it shall remain in effect so long as the Territory remains in a State of Health Emergency as declared on March 13, 2020, and amended on March 20, 2020, March 23, 2020, March 30, 2020, April 6, 2020, April 22, 2020, and as further amended, renewed, and extended, until rescinded or superseded by any other applicable Executive Order.

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 29th day of April, A.D., 2020.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Albert Bryan, Jr.', written over a horizontal line.

Albert Bryan, Jr.
Governor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tregenza A. Roach', written over a horizontal line.

Tregenza A. Roach
Lt. Governor