



**GOVERNMENT OF  
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES**

**VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

October 18, 2020

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**DOH Urges Residents to Avoid Nonessential Travel**

**St. Croix, US Virgin Islands** — As the COVID-19 pandemic changes, the Department of Health continues to mitigate the risk to our community by making travel recommendations as needed. Health Commissioner Justa Encarnacion discourages residents from non-essential travel amid concerns of an increase in COVID-19 cases in the U.S. mainland.

Travel increases your chance of getting COVID-19. Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others. While residents are strongly discouraged from non-essential travel at the moment, the department acknowledges that there are some individuals who must travel for essential reasons. If you must travel, you will be referred to a local lab for testing 3-5 days after your return and you will be placed in quarantine until you receive your test results.

If you are considering traveling for any reason, there are basic precautions you can take to stay safe. Wear a mask to keep your nose and mouth covered when in public settings. Avoid close contact by staying at least 6 feet apart from anyone you do not live with. Wash your hands often with soap and warm water. Avoid contact with anyone who is sick and avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

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All travelers to the U.S. Virgin Islands aged 5 and older must produce either a negative COVID-19 antigen (molecular/PCR/rapid) test result from a test taken within five days prior to travel or a positive COVID-19 antibody test result taken within four months prior to travel to the USVI. Every traveler aged 5 and older must use the travel portal at <https://usvitraportal.com> before travel. Children 4 years of age or younger are exempt from this testing requirement. It is critical that testing is conducted before arriving to the Virgin Islands as the safety of residents and visitors to the territory is our highest priority.

There is a five-day window to take a test prior to travel. The availability of tests varies from location-to-location, so prospective travelers who are required to present test results are encouraged to plan their testing to meet the required five-day window prior to travel to the USVI. Test results from a test taken outside of the five-day window do not meet the requirements. If for some reason travelers are unable to produce the required test result, they will be subject to quarantine for 14 days or until they are able to receive the required test result while in the territory.

We encourage you to stay safe and continue to monitor vi.gov, and covid19usvi.com, and usviupdate.com for official updates and guidance.

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