



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

**FOURTH SUPPLEMENTAL EXECUTIVE ORDER AND PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR
OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
CLOSING ALL BEACHES IN THE TERRITORY
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; 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, the Virgin Islands Department of Health (“DOH”) received confirmation from the Center for Disease Control (“CDC”) that Forty-three persons, including one deceased person, have tested positive for COVID-19 and currently await results of tests conducted on additional individuals and there is a concern that these statistics may rise; 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;

WHEREAS, on March 29, 2020, due to the rising number cases of COVID-19 across the country and the projections for 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, it is necessary to limit mass social gathering places to enforce these guidelines and to avoid further spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Title 23, Section 1005(d) of the Virgin Islands Code, the existing State of Emergency may not last longer than thirty (30) days unless renewed by the Governor; and

WHEREAS, the need for the Territory of the United State Virgin Islands to remain in a State of Emergency to respond to and combat this COVID-19 pandemic for the safety of our people is paramount and needs to comply with federal guidelines;

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, and March 30, 2020, do hereby ORDER:

SECTION 1. All beaches in the Territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands are closed effective immediately until April 20, 2020, unless earlier lifted or extended by order of the Governor of the United States Virgin Islands.

SECTION 2. Pursuant to and 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, and March 30, 2020, all enforcement officer are authorized to enforces this Order to the full extent of the law, under the direction of the Incident Commander, the Commissioner of the Virgin Islands Police Department, the Commissioner of the V.I. Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs, and The Commissioner of the V.I. Department of Planning and Natural Resources.

SECTION 3. This Executive Order is effective immediately and 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 and herein or until rescinded or superseded by another 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 6th day of April, A.D., 2020.



Albert Bryan, Jr.
Governor

SEAL

ATTEST:

Tregenza A. Roach
Lt. Governor