

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

NINTEENTH 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 September 2020, 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 its "Stay-at-Home Phase"; and

WHEREAS, The implementation of the return to 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 one thousand three hundred seventy-eight (1378) persons, including twenty-one (21) deceased persons, tested positive for COVID-19 in the Virgin Islands, and additional testing of individuals for COVID-19 are still occurring 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 30, 2020, as amended, supplemented, renewed, and extended, do hereby ORDER:

<u>SECTION 1.</u> The Sixteenth Supplemental Executive Order issued on September 8, 2020, as amended and supplemented, is further amended in Section 1. Subsection E. 1. by striking the language in its entirety and inserting

"In all restaurants in the Territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands, NO patrons shall be allowed to congregate standing around the restaurant bar counter area; there shall be no sitting and no serving of alcohol at bar counters. Seated patrons may order food, or alcohol, or both, so long as they are seated at designated seating areas." in its place.

<u>SECTION 2.</u> The *Eighteenth Supplemental Executive Order issued on September 30, 2020*, in Section 7, internal section G. 3. by striking the language in its entirety and replacing it with the following language

"In all bars and nightclubs in the Territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands, NO patrons shall be allowed to congregate standing around the bar counter area; there shall be no sitting and no serving of alcohol at bar counters. Patrons seated at tables may order food, or alcohol, or both, so long as they are seated at designated seating areas."

SECTION 3. Effective Date

Unless otherwise stated in the specific Sections above, this Executive Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect so long as the Territory remains in a State of Emergency as

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declared on March 13, 2020, as amended, supplemented, extended, and renewed unless earlier lifted 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 <u>2nd</u> day of November, A.D., 2020.

Albert Bryan Jr.

Governor

ATTEST:

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