



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

VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER No. 2020-002

WHEREAS, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission and presents itself with symptoms similar to those of influenza; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has declared a National Disaster related to the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, individuals in the Territory of the Virgin Islands have been pre-emptively isolated and tested for COVID-19, and the CDC currently recommends mitigation measures in communities with potential COVID-19 cases, including staying at home when sick, keeping away from others who are sick and staying at home when a household member is sick with respiratory disease symptoms or if instructed to do so by public health officials or a health care provider; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate to take action to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled and that residents and visitors in the U.S. Virgin Islands remain safe and secure; and

WHEREAS, The Governor of the Virgin Islands, Albert Bryan, Jr. on March 13, 2020, declared a State of Emergency in the Virgin Islands due to COVID-19 and appointed the Commissioner of Health as the incident commander and the Department of Health as the lead agency in the territorial response to the pandemic;

WHEREAS, the Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, in order to protect the lives and property of the residents of the Territory may activate all necessary and possible territorial resources under the executive branch, other agencies, instrumentalities, and partners to complete the preparation necessary to protect life and property;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to impose 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 – Coronavirus Pandemic;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Justa E. Encarnacion, Commissioner of Health of the United States Virgin Islands, by virtue of the authority granted to me by Title 19, Section 2 of the Virgin Islands Code and Title 19, Section 001-000 of the Virgin Islands Rules and Regulations do hereby

ORDER as follows:

It is mandatory that masks or face coverings over the nose and mouth are to be worn:

- **When out in public places**
- **Upon entering any business, and kept on, including in bars and restaurants, unless when eating or drinking, or when exercising as long as 6 ft physical distance can be maintained**
- **At work where there are others in the same workspace**
- **At schools, daycare centers, camps, recreational facilities**
- **In places of worship and at funerals**
- **On ferry's and other modes of public transportation**

This does not apply to children under 2 years of age.

In accordance with Title 3, Section 418(5) & (6) and Title 23, Section 1033(b) of the Virgin Islands Code, the Incident Commander is to take all actions necessary to protect the public health.

The Governor has directed all agencies under the direction of the Governor to fully cooperate with the V.I. Department of Health, and any representative thereof in furtherance of this Order. All agencies not under the direction of the Governor are requested to provide such assistance as is required. All local resources available are designated as being available for the enforcement of this Order.

I SO ORDER, in Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, this the day of July, A.D., 2020.



Handwritten signature of Justa E. Encarnacion in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

JUSTA E. ENCARNACION, RN, BSN, MBA/ HCM
Commissioner/Territorial Health Official