



**THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
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Press Contact

Richard Motta

340-474-2399

www.vi.gov

richard.mottajr@go.vi.gov

Governor Bryan Initiates ‘Open Doors’ Phase Of Territory’s Reopening from COVID-19

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS — During his COVID-19 briefing Thursday, Governor Albert Bryan Jr. said he is initiating the blue “Open Doors” phase on the Territory’s path back to normalcy effective June 1.

“This simply means that we will allow the prohibitions on leisure travel to expire, making it easier for potential tourists to book vacations to the Territory,” Governor Bryan said.

The Governor said the territory has gotten back more than 500 tests from possibly infected individuals without encountering a positive result.

“We have effectively eliminated community spread of the virus through our actions, and the evidence is the recent lack of hospitalizations and the reduction of calls to our hotlines,” Governor Bryan said. “This is what gives us the confidence to take the next step forward.”

Stimulus checks

- On Tuesday, May 26, 6,030 stimulus checks totaling about \$10 million were mailed out.
- To date, 18,429 checks have been mailed out totaling just less than \$30 million.
- To date, this is an average of \$1,618 per check.
- Another batch of checks is being processed and will be mailed out on Saturday, May 30.

YES credits

- To date, 29,414 residential customers received a \$250 credit and 5,461 commercial ratepayers have received a \$500 credit.
- A total of just less than 35,000 ratepayers have received YES credits.
- The YES Credit Program is nearing completion

Unemployment benefits

- The Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation, which provides an additional \$600 per week to unemployment beneficiaries, began this week.
- All eligible recipients will receive a lump sum check for Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation retroactive to April 4, and the weekly payments will continue through July 31.
- On May 27, the Department of Labor set a record by sending out 3,118 checks in one day.
- The Department of Labor has secured a contract with InTouch Call Center, and the public can get information about any COVID-19-related employment security issues and unemployment benefits by calling 1-877-374-0356.
- The call center is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

COVID-19 cases

- Currently tracking 2 active cases
- 1,708 individuals tested to date
- 1,617 of those tests were negative
- 69 tests came back positive
- 62 recovered
- 22 tests are pending
- 6 fatalities to date
- No COVID-19 patients are hospitalized at Juan F. Luis Hospital on St. Croix.
- One COVID-19 patient is hospitalized on a ventilator at Schneider Regional Medical Center on St. Thomas.

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