



For Immediate Release

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Press Contact

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**USVI Department of Human Services Addresses Confirmed COVID-19
Positive Staff Test at Knud Hansen Facility in St. Thomas**

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS — The Virgin Islands Department of Human Services (DHS), today confirmed that it will be closing the Knud Hansen facility until Monday, January 11, 2021 after two employees confirmed positive for COVID-19.

The Knud Hansen facility will re-open on January 11, 2021 after being cleaned over the weekend. Please visit www.dhs.vi.gov to access our listing of key contacts on the home page.

With the notification of the confirmed COVID positive test, DHS, in conjunction with the Department of Health, has initiated emergency response protocols that include widespread self-monitoring and testing of those who were in direct contact with the impacted staff person, appropriate notifications and continued distancing protocols.

CURRENT ACTIONS BEING TAKEN

- Specific staff members of the impacted unit have been advised and asked to quarantine until they get a negative result from testing.
- A notification was sent to all staff advising of the COVID19 positive result of one of the team members.
- DHS has arranged for testing of all DOH identified PUIs within the auspices of DHS through the Department of Health.
- Cleaning and sanitization protocols, in line with Department of Health and CDC guidance, have been initiated.

DHS encourages all staff and members of the public to maintain CDC best practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Wear your mask (covering your nose and mouth while in the workplace).
- Maintain social distance.

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- Wash your hands with soap for 20 seconds, often.
- Wear appropriate other PPE while in contact with other staff or clients.
- Use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol when you cannot your wash hands.
- Routinely clean and disinfect frequently used surfaces.
- Share FACTS, not rumors.

The Department of Human Services requests prayers for all their staff, on the front lines, daily caring for members of the public.

For contact phone numbers and additional information, please visit the Department of Human Services website, www.dhs.gov.vi or on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/usvidhs>) at U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Human Services.

The Department of Human Services (VIDHS) exists to provide social services to members in our community with diverse needs. In times of national uncertainty and hardship we act as a safety-net and exist to inspire hope and empower change through non-judgmental, quality delivery of needed services and resources. Please visit the Department of Human Services website, www.dhs.gov.vi for more information.

If you are experiencing any of the coronavirus symptoms listed on the Department of Health website (listed below), self-quarantine and immediately contact the Department of Health:

- V.I. DOH website: <https://doh.vi.gov/>
- **COVID-19 Hotline:** (340) 712-6299 or (340) 776-1519

For more information on Covid19, the new strain of coronavirus, please visit covid19usvi.com or text COVID19USVI to 888777.

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