



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

**EXECUTIVE ORDER AND PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR
OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
EXTENDING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY
IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

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;

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’);

WHEREAS, the undersigned issued Executive Order and Proclamation Declaring a State of Emergency due to the 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;

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;

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;

WHEREAS, the DOH has organized a Public Health Incident Management Team to manage the public health impacts of COVID-19 in the Territory;

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;

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;

WHEREAS, the outbreak has infected over 3.5 million people and killed about 247,752 around the world, including more than in the U.S., according to a tally compiled by Johns Hopkins University from official government figures, though the true numbers are believed to be far higher

WHEREAS, to date, the Virgin Islands Department of Health (“DOH”) received confirmation from the Center for Disease Control (“CDC”) that sixty-six persons, including four deceased persons, have tested positive for COVID-19 and currently await results of tests conducted on additional individuals;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic is projected to last through most of the summer of 2020 and may re-emerge in the fall of 2020 and will require continuing diligence in combating the pandemic;

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 in order to extend the state of emergency beyond the first two 30-day periods, the Governor must submit legislation to the Legislature requesting an extension of the state of emergency;

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 Title 23, Section 1005(d) of the Virgin Islands Code, do hereby DECLARE as follows:

SECTION 1. The State of Emergency declared effective March 13, 2020, as renewed on April 6, 2020, which is set to expire on May 12, 2020 pursuant to Title 23, Section 1005(d) of the Virgin Islands Code, is hereby extended for an additional 30 days, and such State of Emergency, along with all terms declared and ordered, as supplemented on March 20, 2020 and March 23, 2020, April 6, 2020, and April 20, 2020, shall continue in full force and effect through ***June 11, 2020***,

unless earlier lifted or extended by order of the Governor of the United States Virgin Islands.

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 4th day of May, A.D., 2020.



Albert Bryan, Jr.
Governor

ATTEST:

SEAL

Novelle E. Francis
President
Thirty-Third Legislature of the Virgin Islands