



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT HONOURABLE CARVIN MALONE

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

COVID-19

UPDATE

6th APRIL 2020

“I urge everyone to continue to do your part to protect yourselves and your families by adhering to all legal requirements and Public Health guidelines.”

As of 6th April 2020:

There are **1,174,866** confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and approximately **64,541** deaths.

- It is important to note that in that number, **3,559** are confirmed in the Caribbean region with **154** deaths reported.
- 81 percent of persons infected with COVID-19 remain mild, while 14 percent are serious and 5 percent critical.
- The World Health Organization continues to classify both the global and regional risk of COVID-19 as very high.

The Ministry of Health is pleased that there is still no sign of person-to-person transmission of the virus in the Territory.

1. 17 samples were collected by teams from the Regional Security System and tested by CARPHA over the past two days and the good news is that; all results were negative for the virus that causes COVID-19.
2. The total number of samples tested to date is 64: 61 negative and 3 positive.
3. All positive cases have exhibited only mild symptoms and did not require hospitalisation.
4. All 3 cases are being or will be re-tested in accordance with CARPHA’s protocol for determining full recovery from COVID-19.

KEY MEASURES

All the measures taken so far are in line with one main objective: to prevent and limit the spread of COVID-19 in the British Virgin Islands.

Our teams continue to:

1. Expand surveillance and testing.
2. Provide support to all persons in quarantine.
3. Strictly monitor for development of signs and symptoms of the disease to ensure appropriate isolation, management, and/or treatment as necessary.

OBJECTIVE

Find and isolate any remaining cases of COVID-19 in the Territory in order to minimise the risk of community spread, and the suffering and loss that this would bring.

DO YOUR PART!

I strongly encourage everyone to strictly adhere to the letter and spirit of the **Curfew Order and STAY AT HOME** for the entire curfew period as recommended by Public Health experts. By doing this, you are saving lives.

- ✓ Fisherpersons and Farmers can secure their boats and attend their farms and livestock between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon.
- ✓ Persons deemed as essential workers are issued passes to travel to and from Work or Duty, **ONLY**.
- ✓ Passes that are issued are for the purposes issued only! All other activities are deemed violations.
- ✓ If you have not been issued a pass; **STAY HOME**.

For emergency workers and other essential and critical services that require persons to venture out of their homes for work-related activities, I remind you to adhere to distancing, hygiene and sanitation guidelines in order to minimise your risk of exposure to the virus.

ACTION PLAN

We must continue to:

- a. Carefully manage the closure of our ports while facilitating the movement of freight and cargo vessels.
- b. Secure our borders to curtail illegal entry.
- c. Update our risk classifications of countries, territories and areas of Special Interest and High Risk, based on WHO Situation Reports and other Public Health data. Entry to the BVI would continue to be prohibited based on travel history to or from high risk areas within a 14-day period.
- d. Maintain physical distance between people and avoid gathering in large groups.



The Ministry of Health and Social Development and the entire Government of the Virgin Islands will continue to exert our best efforts, based on scientific evidence and best practices, to put effective measures in place to safeguard the health and wellbeing of our people.

Anyone experiencing a fever with cough or difficulty breathing is encouraged to contact the Health Hotline at 852-7650 for medical assessment and guidance.

For the latest advice and information with updates visit the Government’s website at bvi.gov.vg/covid-19.

