

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS COVID-19 UPDATE Information for Leisure Travelers

January 3, 2021

The Territory is in the Safer-at-Home Phase of its State of Emergency.

Safer-at-Home Travel Restrictions

- Leisure travel to the Territory resumed on September 19, 2020
- Hotels and accommodations providers are permitted to accept guests
- Accommodations providers include hotels, villas, Bed and Breakfasts, Airbnb properties, guest houses, temporary vacation housing, charter vessels, and any similar businesses known by any other terminology

USVI Travel Screening Portal

- Every traveler aged five or older who enters the U.S. Virgin Islands, by air or sea, including anyone in-transit to another destination, is required to use the USVI Travel Screening Portal and submit a COVID-19 test result prior to travel, to avoid processing delays, enhanced health screening and/or mandatory self-quarantine.
- The Travel Screening Portal should only be completed within five days of travel
- Upon arrival, you must produce your original test result and travel certification received from the Travel Screening Portal to avoid processing delays
- Travelers who originate in the U.S. Virgin Islands and return to the Territory, including those who return within a 5-day period, must take a test before returning, or be prepared to test and quarantine upon reentry.
- Effective January 18, 2021, travelers 5 years of age or older, will be unable to board an aircraft to the Territory without travel certification from the portal. Travelers 5 years of age or older who arrive by vessel are also required to have certification from the portal prior to arriving in the Territory.

Testing Guidelines

- Travelers are required to provide evidence of:
 - a COVID-19 molecular (e.g., RT-PCR, viral or nucleic acid amplification) test from a nasal or throat or oral rinse and/or saliva sample taken and NEGATIVE result received (both within five days of commencement of travel to the Territory)

OR

 - a COVID-19 antigen (rapid) test from a nasal or throat swab sample taken and NEGATIVE result received (both within five days of commencement of travel to the Territory)

OR

- a COVID-19 antibody finger stick or blood draw test taken and POSITIVE result received (both within four months of commencement of travel to the Territory)
- Every person ordered to self-quarantine, including travelers without an acceptable test result, shall proceed directly from the airport or seaport to their home or booked accommodations provider until the required test result is received
- The self-quarantine period shall last for 14 days from the time of entry into the Territory, or until the traveler receives the required test result while in the Territory
- Travelers who are required to self-quarantine are responsible for all quarantine costs, as advised by the USVI Department of Health and the Office of the Governor. This includes costs associated with the COVID-19 test, transportation, accommodations, food and beverage, and medical care

Airports

- The Territory's airports are open
- Travelers are advised to contact their airline regarding schedule changes or updates
- Incoming passengers are subject to enhanced health screenings and temperature checks to identify potential health risks and may be required to take a COVID-19 test
- All arriving passengers MUST wear a mask or facial covering upon disembarkation and comply with social distance requirements
- Travelers should monitor the United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and airline websites for travel advisories and other pertinent airline screening guidelines

Safer-at-Home

- A Safer-At-Home policy is in effect
- Masks or facial coverings are required and must cover the mouth and nose. This requirement is enforced by a fine. Masks with exhalation vents should not be worn.
 - Any person who is not in his or her private home or vehicle is required to wear a face mask or facial covering when two or more individuals who do not share the relationship of family members, caretakers, household members, or romantic partners, meet or interact in any manner
 - Individuals with chronic respiratory conditions should seek advice from their primary care physician for alternative types of masks and avoid crowds
 - Children under two and persons unable to remove a mask without assistance are exempt
 - Persons who have a physician's certification of a respiratory condition are exempt
 - Social distance of six feet or more between individuals is required
- Individuals are urged to continue to wash hands, use hand sanitizer and practice proper respiratory etiquette (including coughing into the elbow) as often as possible
- Mass Gatherings (of more than 100 persons) are prohibited.

- Organized activities must obtain approval from the Department of Health =, in addition to the relevant regulatory agency prior to the activity.
- Gatherings are limited to no more than 100 individuals in a single room or space
- Taxicabs and safaris to be limited to one-half of their previously allowable capacity
- All passengers and drivers of mass or public transportation, including but not limited to Vitran buses, taxicabs and automobiles for hire, shall be required to wear a mask or facial covering
- Retail stores shall not permit more than 100 individuals in the establishment at any time. This does not apply to grocery stores, big-box stores, pharmacies and fuel service service stations

Restaurants and Food Trucks

- Restaurants will be allowed to resume dine-in operations under the following conditions:
 - Limited to one-half of their previously allowable capacity, or 100 customers, whichever is less
 - Shall be closed from midnight to 6 a.m. daily
 - No congregating or standing at bar counter area
 - No sitting or serving of alcohol at bar counters
 - Seated patrons may order food or alcohol or both once stationed at designated seating areas
 - No more than six persons per table
 - Tables must be six feet apart
 - Employees must wear facial coverings at all times
 - Patrons should wear facial coverings whenever they are not seated at a table
 - Patrons waiting for take-out must wait outside
 - No service of alcohol alone to persons outside the restaurant
- Food trucks shall operate on a drive thru, take-out or delivery basis only

Other Businesses

Note that rules below for Bars, cabarets and nightclubs are subject to this Notice:

Effective Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 5 p.m., nightclubs and cabarets in the Territory were ordered closed until further notice. All stand alone bars are closed from December 25 2020, through January 7, 2021.

- Bars, cabarets and nightclubs
 - Are open for seated service only.
 - Bars that cannot accommodate sit down/table service with waiter/waitress will remain closed
 - In all bars and nightclubs, standing around the bar counter is not permitted. There shall be no sitting nor serving alcohol at bar counters
 - Seated patrons may order food or alcohol or both once stationed at designated seating areas
 - An 11 p.m. - 8: a.m. alcohol service/drinking curfew is in effect
 - No dancing is permitted by anyone including staff inside or outside establishment with a Bar, cabaret or nightclub license
 - The use of pool tables is permitted with facial coverings worn at all times. Hand sanitizers should be made accessible to all players. Pool sticks and the surrounding areas must be disinfected after each game

- Live music and DJ entertainment are allowed in licensed establishments until 12 a.m.
 - Limited to one-half of their previously allowable capacity, or 100 customers, whichever is less
 - Bowling alleys and movie theaters are open
- Casinos and gaming establishments are open
 - Sale of food and beverages and hosting of parties is prohibited
 - Shall operate at no more than 25 percent of capacity
- Wellness centers, fitness centers, gyms, tennis courts and golf courses may reopen
 - Contact sports are prohibited
- Personal grooming services may reopen
 - All customers awaiting services must wait outside

Churches

- Churches and houses of worship are permitted to operate to 50 percent of their capacity or a maximum of 100 persons, whichever is less.
 - The maximum number includes pastoral leaders, employees and volunteers
 - Facial coverings are to be worn at all times
 - Religious leaders should be 10 feet away from all persons while unmasked
 - Communion may be served in approved containers
 - Funerals and memorials are limited to immediate family and no more than 10 family members

Beaches

- Public beaches are open
- All beaches shall be closed from 4 p.m. until 6 a.m. the following day on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays
- No picnics, parties, disc jockey (DJ), DJ equipment or the likes, camping, bonfires, cooking, barbecuing or grilling are permitted on any beach

Questions

Visitors or residents who have tourism-related inquiries are asked to email info@usviupdate.com or call the Department of Tourism's toll-free number at (800) 372-USVI (8784).

Like other destinations experiencing this unprecedented pandemic, the Territory continues to evaluate its policies. All guidance is subject to the Executive Orders of the Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Please stay safe, and continue to monitor usviupdate.com.