



# U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS (USVI)

# TRAVEL ADVISORY

General guidance for COVID-19 passenger screening for Domestic/International Arrivals



The USVI Travel Screening Portal is located at

[usvitraportal.com](https://usvitraportal.com)

**The Travel Screening Portal should only be completed within five days of travel.**

**Updated January 19, 2021**

- ★ 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.
- ★ 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 have proof of a positive antibody test result within the previous 4-month period.
- ★ Effective January 25, 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.

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)

- ★ Travelers should produce their original test result and travel certification received from the portal upon arrival for examination by local officials.
- ★ The laboratory that performs the COVID-19 test should be certified under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA). You can check a lab's certification status here: <https://www.cdc.gov/clia/LabSearch.html>. Travelers originating outside of the US should use COVID-19 testing facilities that are formally approved in their departure country. Many countries comply with ISO15189 or ISO/IEC17025 standards. Notwithstanding, the USVI reserves the right to reject any test result and/or require a traveler to re-test upon arrival in the Territory.
- ★ Travelers should receive a response from the Travel Screening Portal within 48 hours of submission. Please note that travelers who fail to use the Travel Screening Portal may be denied boarding.

### ★ CDC Clarification

The new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) travel requirements related to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) for all air passengers arriving in the United States **DO NOT** apply to persons traveling/returning from the U.S. Virgin Islands to the U.S. mainland. The new requirements, which go into effect on January 26, 2021, **DO** apply, however, to passengers arriving in the United States (which includes the U.S. Virgin Islands) from a foreign country. A foreign country means anywhere that is **NOT** a state, territory or possession of the United States.

Please note that some states in the U.S. have enacted COVID-19 travel requirements, such as the need to provide evidence of COVID-19 testing within a specified period of time, for travelers entering (or returning to) that state. Hence, travelers departing from the U.S. Virgin Islands are advised to check with their intended destination to determine what, if any, COVID-19 travel or testing requirements are in place. A list of labs in the Territory that offer COVID-19 testing can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3g41mWI>.

Travelers should note that submission of a fake, forged, falsified or otherwise altered test result is subject to prosecution and fine under Executive Order(s) of the Office of the Governor, USVI Department of Health regulations and/or pursuant to criminal code 14 V.I.C. § 843.

Travelers who are required to self-quarantine for any reason 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.

Per the Department of Health, every person ordered to self-quarantine shall proceed directly from the airport or seaport to their home or booked accommodations provider. The self-quarantine period shall last for 10 days from the time of entry into the Territory, or until the traveler is able to receive the required health authority clearance while in the Territory.

All arriving passengers **MUST** wear a mask or facial covering that covers the mouth and nose upon disembarkation. This requirement is enforced by a fine. 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. All travelers must also comply with social distance requirements.

Upon arrival into any U.S. Virgin Islands port, all travelers are subject to the Territory's screening procedures, outlined below. By reading this Travel Advisory, all travelers by embarkation on an arriving aircraft or vessel grant their consent to these procedures.

Upon aircraft or vessel arrival, a representative will advise passengers about the current screening procedures. Upon exiting the aircraft or vessel, all passengers will be escorted to the Virgin Islands Port Authority temperature checkpoint.

Travelers who have received certification from the Travel Screening Portal will be required to present their travel certification (digital or printed) to the screening agent or be denied boarding.

Travelers are subject to COVID-19 health screening protocols, including a temperature scan. Travelers are also subject to enhanced screening including COVID-19 testing (or retesting) upon arrival, per the Department of Health.

Visitors and residents who have travel or tourism-related inquiries are asked to email [info@usviupdate.com](mailto:info@usviupdate.com) or call the Department of Tourism at 340-774-8784 (St. Thomas-St. John District), 340-772-0357 (St. Croix) or toll-free 1-800-372-USVI (8784).



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