

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

February 2, 2022

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

Please refer to [Information for Marine Vessels and Passengers](#) for information regarding marine travel to the Territory.

Safer-at-Home Travel Restrictions

- The Territory is open to leisure travel
- 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

Airports

- The Territory's airports are open
- Travelers are advised to contact their airline regarding schedule changes or updates
- Incoming passengers may be 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

Travel Documents

- As a United States Territory, travel to the U.S. Virgin Islands does not require a passport from U.S. citizens arriving from Puerto Rico or the U.S. mainland. Immigration entry requirements for non-U.S. citizens are the same as for entering the United States from any foreign destination. Upon departure, a passport is required for all but U.S. citizens.

CDC and DHS Guidelines

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and [Department of Homeland Security travel requirements](#) that took effect on November 8, 2021, with updates effective December 6, 2021 and January 22, 2022, only apply to international passengers directly arriving to or transiting through the U.S. Virgin Islands from a foreign country (i.e., anywhere that is NOT a state, territory or possession of the United States).

USVI Travel Screening Portal

- All domestic travelers 5 years of age or older and all international travelers 2 years of age or older who enter the U.S. Virgin Islands by air or sea are required to use the USVI Travel Screening Portal and get cleared to travel to the Territory.

- The secure portal can be accessed at www.usvitraportal.com
 - Travelers are required to produce travel clearance (email with green QR code) from the Travel Screening Portal, to airline or marine transportation officials, or may not be able to board an aircraft or vessel to the Territory. Digital or printed documents are acceptable.
 - Upon arrival, you must produce your travel clearance (email with green QR code) and acceptable documentation of your COVID-19 test and/or vaccine status to avoid processing delays
 - If you are within 24 hours of your planned travel and have not received a response, please check your Junk, Spam or Promotions folder
 - You may also send a follow-up email to travelportal@usvitraportal.com; please include the Tracking ID code you received upon successfully completing your submission
- The Travel Screening Portal can only be completed within five days of travel
- All travelers should follow the testing and travel guidance in one of these categories:
 - Individuals arriving from the mainland United States or a U.S. territory (domestic travel)
 - Individuals who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in the USVI and are traveling from the U.S. mainland or another U.S. territory
 - Unvaccinated individuals whose travel itinerary originates in the U.S. Virgin Islands and are traveling back from the U.S. mainland or another U.S. territory
 - Individuals traveling from international destinations, including the British Virgin Islands

[Individuals Arriving from the Mainland United States or a U.S. Territory](#)

Travelers aged five or older must submit one of the following:

- Negative result from a COVID-19 antigen (rapid) test *or*
- Negative result from a COVID-19 nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) (e.g., RT-PCR)

Tests must be taken and negative result must be received within 5 days of commencement of travel to the Territory.

[Individuals Who Have Been Fully Vaccinated against COVID-19 in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Are Traveling Back from the U.S. Mainland or Another U.S. Territory](#)

Travelers who were vaccinated in the USVI and considered "fully vaccinated" may be exempt from submitting an acceptable COVID-19 test result for travel from the U.S. mainland and/or from another U.S. Territory, if the Official Vaccination Record can be successfully retrieved. To qualify for this exemption, "fully vaccinated" travelers must have been vaccinated in the USVI, with the officially required dosage(s) in the USVI, and have passed the two-week immunity-building period. Note that vaccinations do not supersede testing requirements for international arrivals by air or sea.

Unvaccinated Individuals Whose Travel Itinerary Originates in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Are Traveling Back from the U.S. Mainland or Another U.S. Territory

Travelers who have not been vaccinated against COVID-19 in the USVI and whose travel itinerary originates in the USVI and includes a return trip from the U.S. mainland or from another U.S. territory, regardless of the length of time away, must submit the following:

- Negative result from a COVID-19 antigen (rapid) test *or*
- Negative result from a COVID-19 nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) (e.g., RT-PCR)

Tests must be taken and negative result must be received within five days of commencement of travel to the Territory.

** Results from tests taken in the USVI are not acceptable for travel from the U.S. mainland or another U.S. territory

Individuals Traveling from International Destinations, including the British Virgin Islands

All travelers two years of age or older traveling by air or sea to the United States from a foreign country* are required to comply with the following guidelines:

Acceptable tests

- Negative result from a COVID-19 antigen (rapid) test *or*
- Negative result from a COVID-19 nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) (e.g., RT-PCR, NEAR, TMA, LAMP, HDA, CRISPR, SDA)

Travel by Air

- U.S. citizens/U.S. nationals/lawful permanent residents/immigrants must present a negative result from a COVID-19 test taken within 1 day of travel
- Non-U.S. citizens/non-U.S. immigrants must be fully vaccinated, provide proof of vaccination status, and present a negative result from a COVID-19 test taken within 1 day of travel

Travel by Sea

- U.S. citizens/U.S. nationals/lawful permanent residents/immigrants must submit a negative result from an antigen (rapid) or NAAT (e.g., RT-PCR) COVID-19 test taken within five days of travel
- Non-U.S. citizens/non-U.S. immigrants must be fully vaccinated and provide proof of vaccination status and a negative result from an antigen (rapid) or NAAT (e.g., RT-PCR) COVID-19 test taken within five days of travel

Travelers between 2 and 17 years are exempt from the vaccination requirement but must provide an acceptable COVID-19 test result. Test must be taken within one day of travel for international air arrivals; test must be taken within five days of travel for international marine/sea arrivals.

* A foreign country means anywhere that is NOT a state, territory, or possession of the United States of America.

Departing from the U.S. Virgin Islands

- Travelers departing from the USVI are advised to check with their intended destination to determine what, if any, COVID-19 travel or testing requirements are in place
- Should testing be required, a list of labs in the Territory that offer COVID-19 testing can be found here: <https://www.covid19.usvi.care/testing>.

Integrity of Test Results

Failure to comply with the airline requirements may subject the traveler to criminal penalties under 42 USC 271 and 42 CFR 71.2, in conjunction with 18 USC 3559 and 3571. Willfully giving false or misleading information to the government may result in criminal penalties under 18 USC 1001.

Submission of a fake, forged, or falsified test result is subject to prosecution and/or fine under Executive Order(s) of the Office of the Governor, USVI Department of Health regulations, including pursuant to criminal code 14 V.I.C. § 843 and 795 of Title 14 entitled “False and Fraudulent statements upon the Government” and “Filing and Recording of False Instruments.” Penalties include fines of \$500-\$1,000 and/or imprisonment of two to five years.

Quarantine

- Every person ordered to self-quarantine shall proceed directly from the airport or seaport to their home, vessel, 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
- Travelers who are required to self-quarantine are responsible for all quarantine costs, including those associated with the COVID-19 test, transportation, accommodations, food and beverage, and medical care
- Travelers who fail to comply with self-quarantine regulations are subject to enforcement, prosecution, and/or fine under Executive Order(s) of the Office of the Governor and USVI Department of Health regulations

Previous COVID-19 Diagnosis

Travelers who have been diagnosed previously with COVID-19, have fully recovered, and continue to test positive are required to submit the following to the USVI Travel Screening Portal:

- A letter from a physician or other health care provider documenting the traveler's recovery from COVID-19. The letter must detail the date of the traveler's initial diagnosis and the recovery period.
- Evidence of a positive result from a COVID-19 antigen (rapid) test or nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) (e.g., RT-PCR) taken outside the quarantine period and during the five-day window prior to commencement of travel to the Territory. Positive results from a COVID-19 test taken outside the five-day window do not meet the requirements.

Masks

Masks or facial coverings are required and must cover the mouth and nose. This requirement is enforced by a fine.

- 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
- Children under two and persons unable to remove a mask without assistance are exempt
- Individuals with chronic respiratory conditions should seek advice from their primary care physician for alternative types of masks, avoid crowds, and practice social distancing
- Masks with exhalation vents should not be worn
- Ski masks and stocking caps are prohibited for use as facial coverings
- Masks or facial coverings do not have to be worn during active exercise, indoor or outdoor
- Face masks should be worn by all travelers on and operators of public transportation
- Despite the May 16, 2021, CDC guidelines that relax mask-wearing for certain fully vaccinated individuals, the Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands has not changed or removed local masking requirements. All individuals, whether fully vaccinated or not, are required to comply with local rules. Individuals and business establishments found in violation of the mandatory masking guidelines will be subject to administrative fines and penalties.

Social Distancing and COVID-19 practices

- All travelers must comply with social distancing requirements
- 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

Gatherings

- Gatherings are limited to no more than 50 individuals in a single room or space
- Mass Gatherings (of more than 50 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 of no more than 250 fully vaccinated people may be approved with permission from the Department of Health

Beaches

- Public beaches are open

Transportation

- Taxis and safaris are limited to 75 percent of their previously allowable capacity. They can transport more than the 75 percent capacity limit if all the passengers are part of the same family or group.
- All passengers and drivers of mass or public transportation, including but not limited to Vitran buses, taxicabs, and automobiles for hire, are required to wear a mask or facial covering
- All ferries can operate at 75% capacity or 100 persons (including passengers and crew), whichever is less
 - Crew and passengers entering the terminals, waiting areas, and aboard vessels shall wear masks and adhere to the social distancing rule of no less than six feet apart from the time of entry into the terminal and until disembarkation and departure from the terminal
 - All persons must use safe hand hygiene practices while boarding
 - All passengers are encouraged to stay in their vehicles while on the car ferry
 - Ferries that fail to comply with this order will be fined \$1000.00 for each offense and \$100.00 per passenger

Retail Stores

- Limited to one-half of their previously allowable capacity, or 50 customers, whichever is less
- This does not apply to grocery stores, big-box stores, pharmacies, and fuel service stations

Restaurants and Food Trucks

All bars, restaurants, and nightclubs are to remain closed at midnight, and the last call for alcohol is to be maintained at 11 p.m.

- Restaurants are allowed to operate under the following conditions:
 - Restaurants can seat up to 75 percent of their approved seating capacity, or 50 patrons, whichever is less
 - No congregating or standing at restaurant bar counter area is permitted
 - No sitting or serving of alcohol or food at bar counters is permitted unless it is directly to patrons who are seated at designated seats at the bar counter
 - Seated patrons whether seated at a table or at the bar counter, may order food or alcohol, or both, once stationed at designated and assigned seating areas
 - Designated and assigned seats at bar counters or tables must be at least four feet away from any other party or table

- Employees must wear facial coverings at all times
- Patrons should wear facial coverings whenever they are not seated at a table
- Patrons waiting for takeout must wait outside
- No service of alcohol alone to persons outside the restaurant
- Food trucks shall operate on a drive-thru, takeout or delivery basis only
 - If seating area was previously permitted, then food truck can operate within relevant restaurant guidelines

Bars, Cabarets and Nightclubs

All bars, restaurants, and nightclubs are to remain closed at midnight, and the last call for alcohol is to be maintained at 11 p.m.

- Cabarets are closed.
- Bars and nightclubs are allowed to operate under the following conditions:
 - Can seat up to 75 percent of their approved seating capacity, or 50 patrons, whichever is less
 - Standing around the bar counter is not permitted
 - No sitting or serving of alcohol or food at bar counters is permitted unless it is directly to patrons who are seated at designated seats at the bar counter
 - Seated patrons at the table or bar may order food or alcohol, or both, once stationed at designated seating areas
 - Designated and assigned seats at bar counters and tables must be at least four feet away from any other party or table
 - The serving of alcohol is permitted
 - Dancing is permitted with mask-wearing and social distancing
 - 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 50 customers, whichever is less

Casinos and Gaming Establishments

- 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

Indoor/Outdoor Recreation Facilities

- Bowling alleys, movie theaters, casinos, and gaming centers are open pursuant to the following additional conditions:
 - Closed to patrons from 12 a.m. until 6 a.m. daily
 - Number of patrons limited to 50 percent of the regular occupancy, or 50 customers, whichever is less

Athletic Facilities

- Wellness centers, fitness centers, gyms, tennis courts, and golf courses are allowed to reopen
- The recommended social distancing requirement of six feet or more between individuals must be maintained, and group limits are set within the mass gathering limitations
- Player contact during ALL sports is strictly prohibited
- Low-Risk Sports (including baseball, softball, bowling, golf, cross country, swimming, tennis, table tennis, pool, track and field, and competitive cheerleading) are permitted to have training exercises, games, and organized group activities but must comply with all social distancing, mass gathering, and face-covering regulations
- High-Risk Sports (including basketball, volleyball, football, and organized team sports such as leagues, “pick up games” and scholastic athletic associations) are permitted to have training exercises but are prohibited from conducting games and organized group activities unless authorized

Personal Grooming Services

- Barbershops, hair salons, nail salons, and massage therapists are permitted to reopen
- All customers awaiting services are to wait outside of the business establishment and must practice social distancing

Houses of Worship

- Churches and houses of worship are permitted to operate to 50 percent of their capacity or a maximum of 50 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 protected containers
 - No restriction on the number of persons who can attend a funeral

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.