



For Immediate Release

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Press Contact

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**USVI Department of Human Services Temporarily Closes
In-Person Services for SNAP and MAP Offices in St. Croix -
Mars Hill Location Due to Confirmed COVID-19 Staff
Positive**

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS — The Virgin Islands Department of Human Services announced today that they are immediately closing the SNAP and MAP offices at the Mars Hill location in St. Croix due to a positive COVID-19 exposure of a staff member. **The Offices will be closed from Tuesday, March 2, 2021 and will reopen later in the week.**

Clients can still contact the St. Croix SNAP and MAP offices at:

MAP

- (340)772-7100 ext. 7113 – Special Services or ext. 7114 for Eligibility and Enrollment
- stxmap@dhs.vi.gov

SNAP:

- (340) 773-7100 ext. 7018, 7017 or 7192
- certoffice.stx@dhs.vi.gov

Applications can still be brought to the Mars Hill location and placed in the drop boxes outside.

The Department of Human Services has activated its COVID-19 mitigation protocols to address confirmed COVID-19 cases among staff.

All staff in the DHS Mars Hill Offices have been notified to ensure their safety while DHS follows HIPAA guidelines to safeguard everyone's confidentiality. The Department of Health is working to ensure that all close contacts are notified, are in quarantine and tested accordingly.

3011 Golden Rock • Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands 00820 • (340) 718-2980 ph • (340) 773-6121 fax
1303 Hospital Ground, Suite 1 • St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802-6722 • (340) 774-1166 ph • (340) 774-3466 fax



CURRENT ACTIONS BEING TAKEN

- A notification went out to affected staff.
- Individuals identified as close contacts will be contacted by the Department of Health for testing and ability to resume work safely
- Sanitization of all affected units are being conducted this week
- All staff are encouraged to self-quarantine and immediately contact the Department of Health and their supervisor, if they begin experiencing any of the symptoms of the coronavirus.
 - V.I. DOH website: <https://doh.vi.gov/>
 - **COVID-19 Hotline:** (340) 712-6299 or (340) 776-1519

DHS staff are continually encouraged to continue to maintain CDC best practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Wear your mask (covering your nose and mouth while in the workplace)
- Maintain social distance
- Wash your hands with soap for 20 seconds, often
- Wear appropriate other PPE while in contact with other staff or clients
- Use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol when you cannot wash hands
- Routinely clean and disinfect frequently used surfaces
- Share FACTS not rumors
- Contact your manager, supervisor or administrator if you do not have access to appropriate PPE while at work

The Department of Human Services remains committed, in these trying times, to serving on the front lines to care daily for members of our community.

For general information, please visit the Department of Human Services website, www.dhs.gov.vi or Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/usvidhs>).

For more information on Covid19, the new strain of coronavirus, please visit the USVI Department of Health's website, www.doh.vi.gov/coronavirus or text COVID19USVI to 888777.

#COVID19USVI. The COVID-19 Vaccination Appointment Hotline is now open from 8:30 am until 3:00 pm Monday thru Friday. Operators are available in both English and Spanish. For additional information, including an updated eligibility list as well as vaccine information, call (340)777-8227 or visit VITEMA.Vi.Gov.

The Department of Human Services (VIDHS) exists to provide social services to members in our community with diverse needs. In times of national uncertainty and hardship we act as a safety-net and exist to inspire hope and empower change through non-judgmental, quality delivery of needed services and resources. Please visit the Department of Human Services website, www.dhs.gov.vi for more information.