



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT HONOURABLE CARVIN MALONE

COVID-19 UPDATE – RE-ENTRY PROTOCOL

10th November, 2020

Part 1

BVI EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SUMMARY

As at November 7, 2020

- 6,431 Total Persons Tested at the Dr. D. Orlando Smith Hospital
- 0 Active cases
- 72 Total persons tested positive
- 71 Total recovered
- 1 Death

"COVID-19 does not walk our streets with a label or a tag. We have no idea who may be carriers of the disease, as the evidence has shown, 37 percent of our positive cases reported no symptoms. So let us take nothing for granted."

RE-ENTRY PROTOCOLS FOR ALL TRAVELLERS

While there has been quite a stir regarding the parameters which would guide this process, the opportunity was taken to revisit the arrival, testing, monitoring, quarantine and isolation protocols for travellers and residents in preparation for the wider reopening. At a meeting of Cabinet held on November 6, 2020:

i. Cabinet decided that Phase III Testing Protocol, as amended, which requires certified RT-PCR testing at various intervals and sites for all arriving travellers in order to manage the risk of COVID-19 transmission while reducing quarantine requirements during the incubation period for the disease as follows:

1. testing and quarantine protocols apply to all travellers inclusive of Tourists, Residents, Belongers and Work Permit holders;

2. Cabinet decided that all travellers will be required to download the approved app and must be issued a Travel Certificate;

3. Cabinet decided that the following tests will be required:

- i. a Certified RT-PCR COVID-19 negative test within five days prior to arrival for all travellers from low risk countries; and within three days prior to arrival for all travellers from medium and high risk countries.
- ii. a test on arrival, which if negative, allows controlled movement within the confines of an approved property; and
- iii. a test after 4 complete days of quarantine, which if negative, allows movement within the Territory.

4. Cabinet decided that a traveller who tests positive before arrival will not be allowed to enter the Virgin Islands;

5. Cabinet decided that a positive test at any stage upon arrival will require fourteen (14) days quarantine; and for the avoidance of doubt

6. To allow a mandatory quarantine period of four (4) days within the confines of an approved property or vessel.

ii. Cabinet further decided that the Protocol for vessel arrivals will require certified RT-PCR testing and provide for quarantine accommodations aboard vessels as well as restricted movement within Territorial waters as follows:



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1. Four (4) days quarantine will be undertaken on the vessels at mooring sites to be approved by the Minister for Health and Social Development in consultation with the Minister for Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration;

2. Cabinet decided that vessels will be able to move within territorial waters during the quarantine period but they may only moor at approved sites as approved by the Minister for Health and Social Development in consultation with the Minister for Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration;

3. That Mega yachts will be approved entry in accordance with established marine protocols, except otherwise as approved by the Minister for Health and Social Development.

QUARANTINE EXEMPTIONS

Recognising that there would be some exemptions from quarantine requirements for specific groups, Cabinet also agreed that:

iii. The COVID-19: Quarantine Exemption Protocols, which outlines risk mitigation measures for persons recommended for exemption from quarantine requirements such as aviation, maritime and medical personnel, diplomats and other essential personnel including the judiciary, persons employed in service of the Commonwealth and inter-regional Caribbean Organisations and exceptional essential persons as approved by the Minister for Health and Social Development and the Governor.

When entering the Virgin Islands, while these groups are exempt from mandatory quarantine,

they must register on the BVI Gateway Travel Application, practice self-isolation, and adhere to the various testing requirements outlined in the Quarantine Exemption Protocols.

PUBLIC HEALTH COVID-19 CONTROL AND SUPPRESSION MEASURES NO. 9

Public Health (COVID-19 Control and Suppression Measures) (No. 9) Order, 2020 to:

- i. increase the maximum number of persons for all gatherings to 100 persons;
- ii. increase the maximum number of persons in section 4(2) (that is a faith-based service; a graduation ceremony; a wedding ceremony or a funeral) to two hundred (200 persons);
- iii. change the maximum number of persons in section 4(3) at an outdoor event, to two hundred persons (200 persons); and
- iv. decided to give allowance for the Minister for Health and Social Development to approve gatherings larger than specified above on application to the Ministry

BALANCING LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS

"In the balance of lives and livelihoods we are compelled to open our borders and like all other jurisdictions we must appreciate that we will have to coexist with this virus. It is therefore incumbent upon us to take seriously our responsibility to hold ourselves and each other accountable for the safety and protection of us all."