



**For Immediate Release**

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Press Contact

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## **USVI Department of Human Services Temporarily Closes Mars Hill Head Start Location and Pauses Food Distribution**

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS — The Virgin Islands Department of Human Services announced today that they are immediately closing the Mars Hill Head Start location to staff (students have not been attending in person) and pausing food distribution until next Thursday, March 4, 2021.

The Department of Human Services has activated its COVID-19 mitigation protocols to address confirmed COVID-19 cases among staff, to safely resume food distribution and operations next week.

Head Start team members 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, quarantine and tested accordingly.

### **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:

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



- 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.dhs.gov.vi) for more information.*

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