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Cases of Coronavirus in St . Thomas Grow to 24 as Territory's Total Climbs to 37 in Dept. of Health's Latest Update

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The Department of Health has provided its latest update on confirmed coronavirus cases in the U.S. Virgin Islands, with St. Thomas as of Thursday having the most cases with 24. On St. Croix the number remained at 11 and 2 on St. John.

D.O.H. is releasing the numbers via the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency, and has not been providing details on how the latest spread occur, nor has it been including information on gender or age of the new confirmed cases.

According to the latest update, 154 cases have returned negative and there are 57 pending. D.O.H. said 29 people have recovered.

According to the World Health Organization, using available preliminary data, the median time from onset to clinical recovery for mild cases is approximately 2 weeks and is 3-6 weeks for patients with severe or critical disease.

The latest announcement follows the Bryan administration's decision [to finally start screening incoming passengers](#) to the territory.

Governor Albert Bryan said during a Wednesday call-in press briefing that the local screening at the airports will be conducted by public health workers, assisted by the Virgin Islands National Guard. The screening will include taking the temperature of incoming passengers.

The new measures intended to slow the spread of COVID-19 in the territory was set to begin this past Monday, but temporal thermometers did not arrive in time, according to the administration. The thermometers measure body temperature by holding the device close to a person's forehead, which is considered safer for public health workers.

Mr. Bryan acknowledged that the new screening comes as new arrivals in the territory have slowed to a trickle. "We don't have a lot of people flying in," he said. "American has one flight a day and Delta cancelled all flights."

V.I. Dept. of Tourism Commissioner Joseph Boschulte said all of the major airlines — American Airlines, Delta Airlines, JetBlue Airways, Spirit Airlines and United Airlines — have announced cancellations and schedule reductions.

The Dept. of Tourism first announced on Tuesday that the coronavirus health screening would take place at the Cyril King and Henry Rohlsen airports. "Some travelers may be requested to self-quarantine and/ or take the COVID-19 test," the department said in a written statement.

If arriving passengers show symptoms after being tested, including a dry cough and fever, health officials will ask that these passengers self-quarantine for 14 days. There is currently no penalty in place for a person who breaks self-quarantine. Some U.S. states have put in place strict rules that come with repercussions for those who flout the rules. In Florida, for example, Gov. Ron DeSantis instructed all people entering the state from the New York tri-state area to self-quarantine for 14 days. A violation could lead to a 60-day jail sentence and fines of up to \$500.

Health officials will also ask that incoming visitors to the territory self-quarantine if they're traveling from one of the hotspot states like New York, or other states the CDC considers hot zones.