

# The Virgin Islands Consortium

## Suspected Cases in USVI

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In almost every jurisdiction where suspected cases of the coronavirus is detected, governments take extraordinary steps to first inform their residents and announce steps to get ahead of a possible spread of the virus.

When the government of the British Virgin Islands learned of a suspected case in Tortola, officials called a hastily put-together press event to divulge steps BVI Premier Andrew Fahie had taken to allay the community's concerns. The BVI government quarantined the individual and tracked down five other persons that had been in contact with the person suspected to be ill so that they too could be tested.

On the U.S. mainland, in Europe, Asia and other places where the deadly coronavirus, known as COVID-19, spreads, the response carries the same pattern: announce confirmed or suspected cases and launch a massive dragnet to identify whom the sick or suspected individuals had come into contact with in an attempt to quell the pathogen's spread.

But in the U.S. Virgin Islands, where Governor Albert Bryan during an interview with the Consortium had initially downplayed the virus's impact and said the chances of it spreading in the territory was low, the Bryan administration as of early Wednesday had yet to give residents an update on pertinent information after the Dept. of Health placed deep in a press release issued 10:00 p.m. Monday, that there were three suspected cases in the territory, and that specimens were sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for testing.

A litany of unanswered questions have yet to be addressed....