

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Senate Postpones All Activities as Several 'Persons of Interest' Are Either Affiliated With the Legislature or Recently Visited the Legislature

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The Earl B. Ottley Legislative Building in May 2015. By. ERNICE GILBERT/ VI CONSORTIUM

Senate President Novelle Francis on Saturday announced that his office has implemented precautionary measures for the Virgin Islands Legislature to help minimize exposure to coronavirus (COVID-19).

Mr. Francis has postponed all committee meetings, including a scheduled legislative session planned for the week of March 16-20. The Legislature will also be closed to all

visitors, as an added precaution to minimize exposure, his office said.

In addition, the Legislature will be closed on Monday, March 16 to allow for a protocol for COVID-19 to be finalized and implemented.

Mr. Francis said the measures are necessary after learning that several persons either affiliated with the Legislature or who have recently visited the Legislature have been identified as persons of interest.

"The developing circumstances of COVID-19 demand that the Legislature take all appropriate actions to prevent the spread of the virus. We remain hopeful that these measures, in collaboration with ongoing public health efforts, will minimize the risks to our community," Mr. Francis said.

The senator encouraged anyone who is concerned that they may have been exposed to coronavirus to contact the Department of Health's hotline at (340) 712-6299 or 776-1519.