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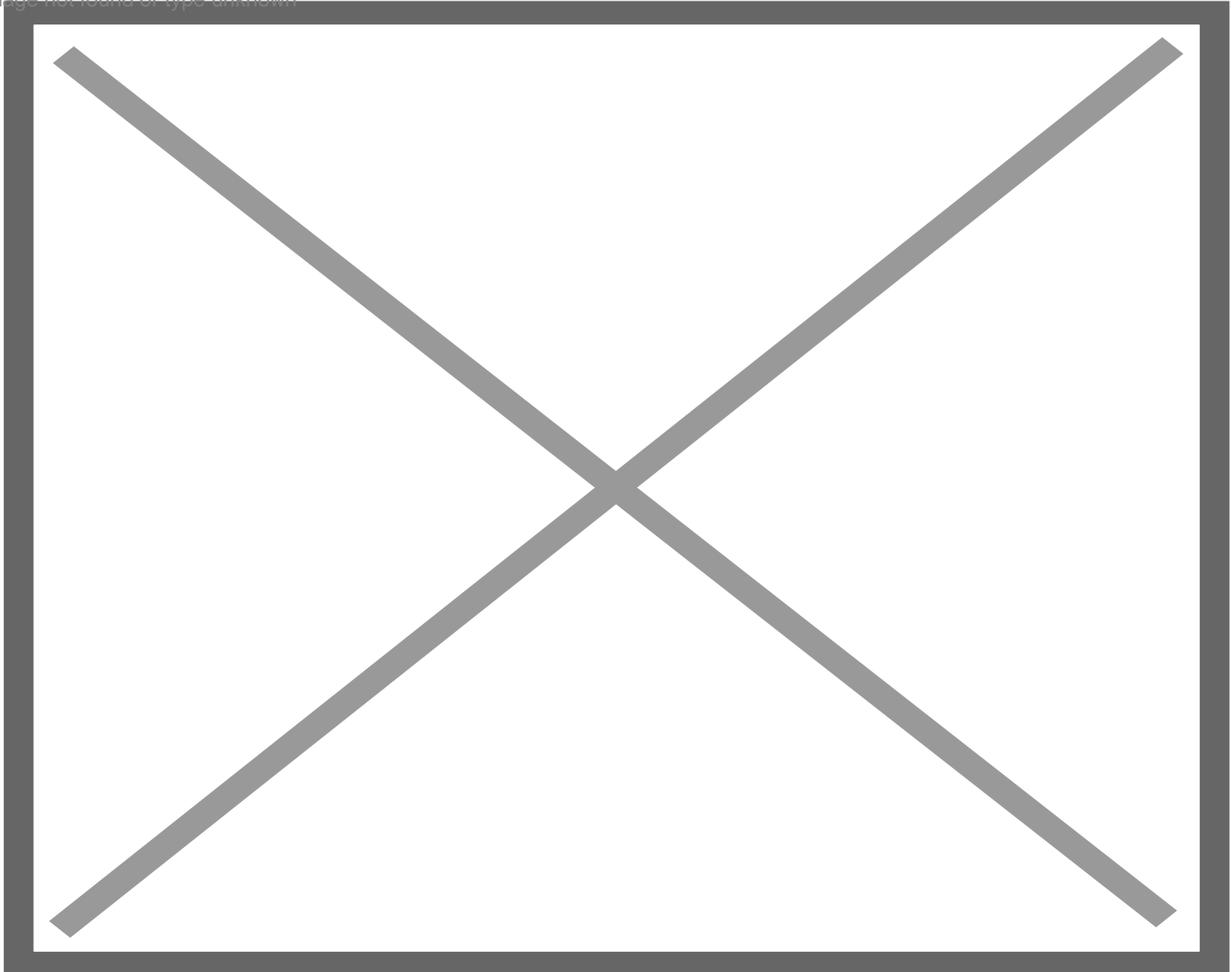
USVI Coronavirus Total Grows to 33: Twenty on St. Thomas, 11 on St. Croix and 2 on St. John (Updated)

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The V.I. Department of Health, through the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency's alert system, on Thursday morning announced three additional cases of the coronavirus in the USVI, bringing the territory's total to 33.

The breakdown is as follows: 20 cases on St. Thomas, 11 cases on St. Croix and 2 cases on St. John. The alert did not include information on how the spread occurred, nor did it include gender or age of the new confirmed cases. There are 42 cases pending, 149 negative, and 25 patients have recovered, according to the Dept. of Health. In an earlier release today, the administration said 30 people had recovered. It is not clear what caused the reduction to 25, as no explanation was provided.

The 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.

Correction: April 2, 2020

A previous version of this story, going based on information provided by the Bryan administration via VITEMA, said 30 people had recovered. VITEMA has since reduced the number of recovered individuals to 25, without provided any information as to why the numbers were reduced. The administration did not include information on how the spread occurred, nor did it include gender or age of the new confirmed cases.