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Lt. Gov. Roach Reminds Medicare Beneficiaries of Coronavirus Test Coverage

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Lieutenant Governor Tregenza Roach is reminding Medicare beneficiaries that coronavirus tests can be paid for by Medicare. Under the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Medicare services are provided by the Virgin Islands State Health Insurance Assistance Program (VI SHIP) Medicare offices on St. Thomas and St. Croix.

Medicare Part B plans will pay all costs for the COVID-19 diagnostic tests for beneficiaries who were tested on or after February 4, 2020, the lieutenant governor made known.

Medicare Part A plans cover medically necessary hospitalization costs. If you are a Medicare beneficiary and your doctor recommends that you be quarantined in the hospital rather than self-isolate at home, your hospitalization costs will be covered by Medicare Part A.

At present, there is no vaccine for this latest coronavirus, but when a vaccine does become available, Medicare Part D plans will cover the cost for the vaccine, Mr. Roach said.

The public is also reminded that the VI SHIP/Medicare offices continue to restrict walk-in customers and in-person business services. These precautionary measures were implemented to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus and protect customers and staff.

Beneficiaries are asked to conduct business via telephone and avoid in-person visits to the VI SHIP/Medicare offices on St. Thomas and St. Croix. Customers in need of assistance or information are asked to call the following numbers:

St. Thomas/St. John

340-774-2991, Ext. 4505 or 4507

St. Croix

340-773-6449 (when prompted by the recording, please press option 5 for Christiansted and then option 9 for VI SHIP/Medicare)