

The Virgin Islands Consortium

2020 Census Resumes June 1

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Staff Consortium **June 01, 2020**



The St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix offices of Census 2020 US Virgin Islands will reopen on June 1, Census 2020 has announced. Data collection will resume at that time, with census takers visiting neighborhoods to list homes and conduct in-person interviews.

The 2020 Census's number one priority is the health and safety of the public and the Census 2020 USVI staff, according to a recently issued release.

"We live in this community. We know how anxious our neighbors are because of the coronavirus," said Dr. Frank Mills, manager of the St. Thomas/St. John office of Census 2020 USVI. "Notwithstanding, we at the 2020 Census of the U.S. Virgin Islands must

safely do our best to get an accurate count of the people who live in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The future of our community – for the next 10 years – is dependent upon the data that we collect.”

With guidance from public health experts, Census 2020 USVI staff have been trained to follow CDC and local health guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic. Census takers are not required to enter your home. They can conduct the interviews in an open space while remaining 6 feet apart. For the safety of the public and Census 2020 field workers, staff have been issued Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), such as masks and hand sanitizers. No physical contact with a Census taker is required, the release said.

During the Census 2020 USVI data collection operation, Census takers will visit every location where people live or stay to conduct in-person interviews using a paper questionnaire. The USVI Census form is a more detailed questionnaire than stateside. The purpose of this “long form” is to collect detailed social, economic, and housing characteristics of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, if a respondent is unwilling to participate in a face-to-face interview, an option to complete the form by telephone will be possible. Respondents must wait until their housing unit has been identified and listed, and a Notice of Visit has been provided. Geographic information from the Notice of Visit is needed for the telephone option.

The 2020 Census is mandated by the U.S. Constitution in Article 1, Section 2. The 2020 Census counts the population in the United States and five U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands).

"Do your part. Support the Census by providing information about your household. The USVI counts," said the 2020 Census.

For more information or to inquire about Census job opportunities, please contact the local Census USVI offices on St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix at (340) 718-2020.