

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Use Caution When Using Territory's Beaches This Weekend, D.P.N.R. Warns

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The Department of Planning and Natural Resources has announced that due to the impact and effects of Hurricane Dorian, the Division of Environmental Protection (DEP) anticipates that negative environmental impacts will be caused by storm-water runoff, high surf zones and anticipated sewer system overflows.

To that end, the department is advising the public to use caution when using the coastal waters and all beaches throughout the territory until further notification. DPNR is also advising parents to instruct their children to keep away from storm water-impacted beaches as well as areas with manholes and storm water flooding. There may be an elevated health risk to anyone swimming in storm water-impacted areas as a result of

increased concentrations of bacteria.

All persons should also be aware that storm water runoff due to hurricanes and tropical storms may also contain contaminants or pollutants harmful to human health due to storm debris, and therefore all persons should avoid areas of storm water runoff (i.e. guts, puddles, and drainage basins). DPNR will continue to monitor the impacted areas and waters.

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