

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Legislature Closed Territory-Wide Due to Confirmed Case of Covid-19

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VI Legislature building on St. Croix By. ERNICE GILBERT FOR VI CONSORTIUM

V.I. Legislature buildings territory-wide will be closed for the week of December 14-19 due to an employee recently testing positive for Covid-19, the office of Senate President Novelle Francis has announced. The release did not say on which island this employee resides, however, Legislature employees travel between the islands often, and a single Covid-19 case could affect a number of people easily in both districts. The scale of the closure suggests the exposure may have been broad.

According Mr. Francis's office, all committee meetings scheduled for this week have been postponed and will be rescheduled for a later date. Employees will telework during this period. Regular operations are expected to resume on Monday, December 21.

Mr. Francis encouraged the community to take all precautions to minimize the spread of the deadly pathogen by practicing social distancing, wearing masks, and following all guidelines outlined by the V.I. Department of Health to protect public health during this pandemic.

D.O.H. on Saturday [reported](#) 16 new cases, with St. Croix accounting for most of the confirmed infections at 87, followed by St. Thomas with 56, and St. John with 36 — for a territory-wide total of 179 active cases.