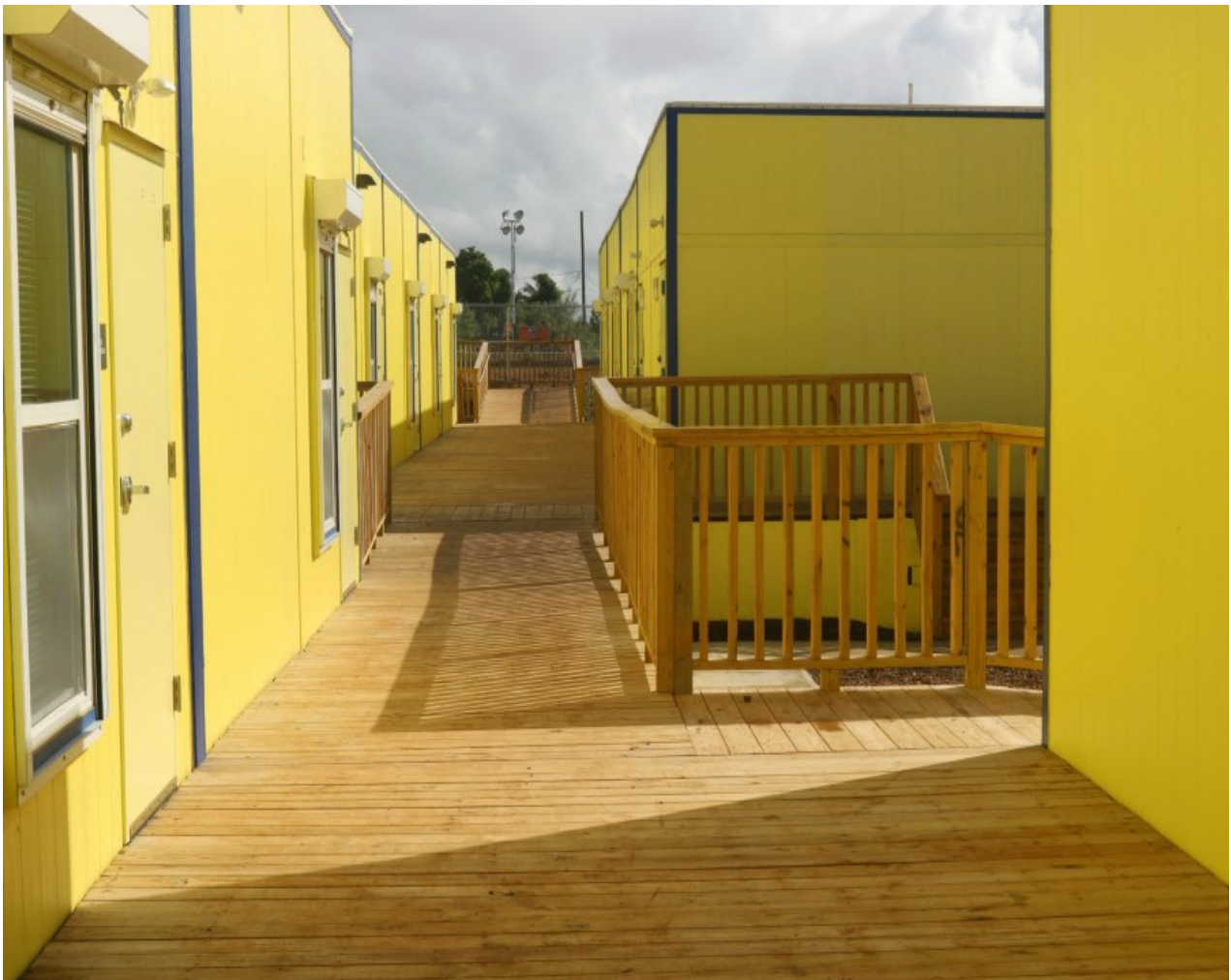


The Virgin Islands Consortium

Third-Grade Class at Arthur A. Richards Reverts to Virtual Learning While Employee Awaits Covid-19 Test Result

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ST. CROIX — A third-grade class currently engaged in in-person learning at Arthur A. Richards K-8 School will temporarily return to virtual learning Thurs., March 18 through Tues., March 23 while an employee awaits COVID-19 test results, said the Dept. of Education Wednesday.

According to the release, based on the research of exposure to Covid-19, the V.I. Department of Health has advised district and school leaders to have the class return to virtual learning until the employee's test results are received and clearance to return to

work is given.

The remainder of the school is not affected and can safely continue in-person learning, Education said.

Details of the incident, according to D.O.E.:

- An employee had limited contact with a family member that has tested positive for COVID-19; the employee informed school leaders of their possible exposure on March 17
- The employee will be tested for COVID-19 by the Department of Health
- Parents of students attending in-person learning in the class have been informed of the matter
- All students attending in-person learning at Arthur A. Richards K-8 School are organized into 'bubbles,' with each grade level having access to its own wing, which eliminates contact with other students and areas on the school campus
- Students remain with their classmates throughout the school day, and students and teachers eat breakfast and lunch inside their classrooms
- Parents transport students to and from school, thus eliminating different grade levels from intermingling on a school bus
- These protocols have been established as part of the return to in-person learning for all district schools, providing for ease of isolation and contact tracing on campuses, should the need arise

An update will be provided on the class's return to in-person learning, said the department.