

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Sports, Parks and Recreation Suspends Rental of Facilities, Halts Programs as Covid Cases Surge in USVI

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The V.I. Dept. of Sports, Parks and Recreation on Monday afternoon announced the suspension of facilities along with its programs as Covid-19 cases continue to increase in the territory.

The announcement came ahead of a press briefing by Governor Albert Bryan, scheduled for 1:00 p.m., where the territory's leader is expected to provide an update on the administration's strategy to combat the rising cases, which is being attributed to the Delta variant.

The Delta variant is a highly transmissible strain of Covid-19 that has also proven to be better at evading vaccines, though fully vaccinated people still have significant protection against illness.

In the release, D.S.P.R. said, "Due to the rise in Covid positive cases in the territory, the Department of Sports, Parks, and Recreation has suspended the rental of facilities until further notice. To minimize exposure to the Covid-19 virus, DSPR has also suspended all sports and recreation activities for two weeks."

The department said following the two-week suspension, it "will revisit the suspension of activities and determine if it is safe to resume operations." D.S.P.R. said its decision will be based on guidance provided by the V.I. Dept. of Health.

D.O.H. hasn't provided an update on latest numbers this week, though health officials are expected to release this information during Mr. Bryan's press briefing.

D.S.P.R. said persons that have reserved facilities within the next 30 days are asked to call the main office to reschedule: 340-773-0160 St. Croix or 340-774-0255 St. Thomas.

"We appreciate your understanding during this public health emergency," said the department. "We encourage you to stay diligent and continue to practice good hand and respiratory hygiene."