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37th Virgin Islander Dies From Covid-19

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The V.I. Dept. of Health has confirmed the 37th Covid-19 related death in the territory, bringing to five the number of individuals who have died from causes related to the virus in two weeks.

"After further investigating cause of death and ensuring notification of next of kin, the Virgin Islands Department of Health is saddened to confirm the territory's thirty-seventh death related to Covid-19. Deceased is a 67-year-old female on St. Croix," D.O.H. said Friday.

The escalation of Covid deaths in the USVI is tied to the confirmation of the Delta variant in the territory, the most contagious strain of Covid-19 to date.

As of Thursday, the territory had 182 active cases: 125 on St. Thomas, fifty-five on St. Croix, and two on St. John.

D.O.H. said efforts continue to slow the virus's spread, and the department encouraged social distancing and mask-wearing when in company of people outside the same household.

Governor Albert Bryan earlier this week unloaded on vaccine doubters and conspiracy theorists, highlighting the governor's frustration with the vaccine hesitancy that has taken hold in the territory. As of this week, the territory was at 49.1 percent vaccinated, and this percentage includes individuals who traveled to the territory with the sole purpose of taking the shot during the early days of vaccine availability.

Said the governor: "The number one killer in the Virgin Islands is hypertension, heart disease and diabetes, and people [eating] macaroni and cheese, stuffing, seasoned rice, every single day. Souse and all of these other stuff.

"They're putting on clothes washed in chemicals that will poison your body. They're spraying dyes and all kinds of things in their hair. They're going to nail shops where they're filing down and inhaling all kinds of toxins every single day, and painting themselves and their hair and their fingers with all kinds of things that contaminate your body.

"They're putting phones to their heads full of radiation and all kinds of other things that are messing with their system. And every day and night they're going to bars and places and drinking sodas and all kinds of alcohol and other kinds of toxins in their body that they never know where it come from.

"They're eating at fast food restaurants, they don't know how it's made, what it's made from, or what kinds of plastic are in it, and you're going to tell me about vaccines? Let's get real.

"If the government had wanted to poison you and kill you they could have done so a lot faster, because all they had to do is put it in an app.

"I mean all of the arguments that I've listened to, vaccines have a long history. In 2021 we don't need to be going through [the Black Plague](#) of the dark ages because people don't want to take the medicine. And so many places in the world people wish they could have this medicine in order to survive.

"Bottomline, if you get sick, you're going to be begging for the monoclonal antibodies which is the same technology that we use in the vaccine."