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St. Croix Accounting for 83 Percent of Total Covid-19 Cases; 'Healthcare Heroes' Vaccine Lottery Winners Announced

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The Bryan administration urged residents of St. Croix not to let up on Covid-19 protocols, with the island as of Tuesday accounting for 83 percent of the territory's total active cases.

Elsewhere, the administration announced the six winners of the "Healthcare Heroes" vaccine lottery ranging from \$25,000 to \$5,000 in cash prizes.

As of Tuesday there were 161 active Covid-19 cases in the USVI: 134 on St. Croix, 25 on St. Thomas and 2 on St. John.

“We are urging St. Croix residents to take precaution. You are at risk, and you should take particular caution until the numbers on St. Croix start to subside,” said Richard Motta, the administration's communications director. “But even for residents of St. Thomas and St. John, don't let the ebb and flow in the number of active cases on a particular island determine how you should protect yourself. Today, our message is to urge you not to think that because there are a certain number of cases on the island you reside in, you are safer or are less at risk and therefore don't have to take those simple precautions.”

Winners of the Health Care Heroes vaccine lottery are:

St. Croix

- 1st prize (\$25,000) – Rebecca Bailey, Luis Hospital
- 2nd prize (\$10,000) – Tiesha Ballantine, Luis Hospital
- 3rd prize (\$5,000) - Eugenie Graham, Frederiksted Health Center

St. Thomas-St. John District

- 1st prize (\$25,000) – Roberta Francis-Thomas, Schneider Hospital
- 2nd prize (\$10,000) – Jessica Wilson, Schneider Hospital
- 3rd Prize (\$5,000) – Duanne Jones, VI Dental Center

\$250 Vaccination Checks

Distribution of the \$250 vaccination checks continues from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays-Fridays on St. Croix and St. Thomas at the Community Vaccination Centers and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Morris de Castro Clinic on St. John.

These sites will be open until November 30 and recipients should bring their vaccination card or digital vaccination record, and a valid picture ID.

Homebound persons who are unable to retrieve their gift card at the distribution sites can send someone on their behalf with a notarized letter of authorization or attestation. If a verification letter cannot be notarized or an attestation attained, then the recipient can be called for verification and provide verbal authorization. The pick-up person will be issued the card and the homebound person must sign a receipt that is returned to the distribution center.

Alternatively, homebound persons who can't get a letter notarized can have the \$250 card delivered by Department of Health staff.

Deployed soldiers, persons off-island for medical reasons or persons in school off-island can send someone on their behalf with a notarized attestation to pick up the card

Parents or guardians are permitted to pick up their child's gift card in the child's absence but must present a valid picture ID and the child's valid picture ID or birth certificate, which should correspond with the information in the Department of Health system. Children under 18 cannot pick up the card without an adult.

Pop-Up Vaccinations

Residents can get vaccinated at no cost at the Community Vaccination Center (CVC) located in each district; both facilities accept scheduled appointments and walk-up requests for the vaccine.

The Department of Health will also provide free Covid-19 vaccines:

- Every Monday in October from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Market (formerly known as Plaza Extra at Tutu) on St. Thomas
- Every Wednesday in October from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Market (formerly known as Plaza West) on St. Croix
- Every Saturday in October from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Farmers Market at the Agricultural Fairgrounds on Centerline Road on St. Croix.
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Anyone 12 and older is eligible to receive the vaccine. Please make sure to have a parent or guardian accompany any minor wishing to get vaccinated and must bring an ID for both the minor and the parent or guardian.

Anyone who thinks they may have contracted COVID-19 can call the Epidemiology hotline at 340-712-6299 or 340-776-1519. For more information, visit covid19usvi.com.