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## Dept. of Health Updates Covid-19 Testing Schedule, Temporarily Halts Pop-Up Testing on St. Thomas and St. Croix

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The V.I. Department of Health on Tuesday said that starting tomorrow, it will shift to temporarily cease its Covid-19 pop-up testing events on St. Croix and St. Thomas. This change will not impact pop-up testing and vaccinations that occur on St. John.

“The Department was able to quickly meet the needs of the community in response to the testing demand during the Omicron surge. With the decrease in new and active cases now, we can safely resume our regular daily testing hours,” said Health Commissioner Justa Encarnacion

D.O.H. said it has improved its free testing options by expanding daily drive through testing to prioritize testing for those who are sick or are a close contact of a confirmed positive case.

Close contacts are individuals who were within 6 feet of a positive case for 15 minutes without a mask on over their nose and mouth. Close contacts exposed to a positive case should stay away from others and wait at least 4 days before getting a Covid-19 test.

According to the release, testing is by appointment and is conducted drive-thru style at the Charles Harwood Complex from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and at the Roy L. Schneider Hospital from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The Epidemiology hotline numbers are accessible from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. for callers to report suspected cases at (340) 712-6299 OR (340) 776-1519. Pre-registration for testing can be completed online at [covid19usvi.com/testing](https://covid19usvi.com/testing).

Pop-up vaccinations continue throughout the community at various sites.

Here's the current schedule for pop-up vaccination sites throughout the territory:

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Cost-U-Less on St. Thomas, and Wednesdays from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Port Authority Gravel Lot on St. John. The St. John location also has free COVID-19 testing available from 12 to 3 p.m.

D.O.H. said it is also providing free Covid-19 vaccines on St. Croix at The Market (formerly known as Plaza Extra West) every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and at the Farmers Market at the Agricultural Fairgrounds on Centerline Road every Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The current schedule for the Covid-19 vaccine for ages 5-11 is:

Tuesday and Friday at Maternal Child Health on STT from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Monday through Friday at the Community Vaccination Center on STX from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For ages 5 and up you can schedule an appointment by calling (340) 777-8227. For ages 5 and up you can schedule yourself or your child online at [covid19usvi.com/vaccines](https://covid19usvi.com/vaccines). If you, your child or someone you know is homebound, the Department of Health can also bring the COVID19 vaccine home to you.