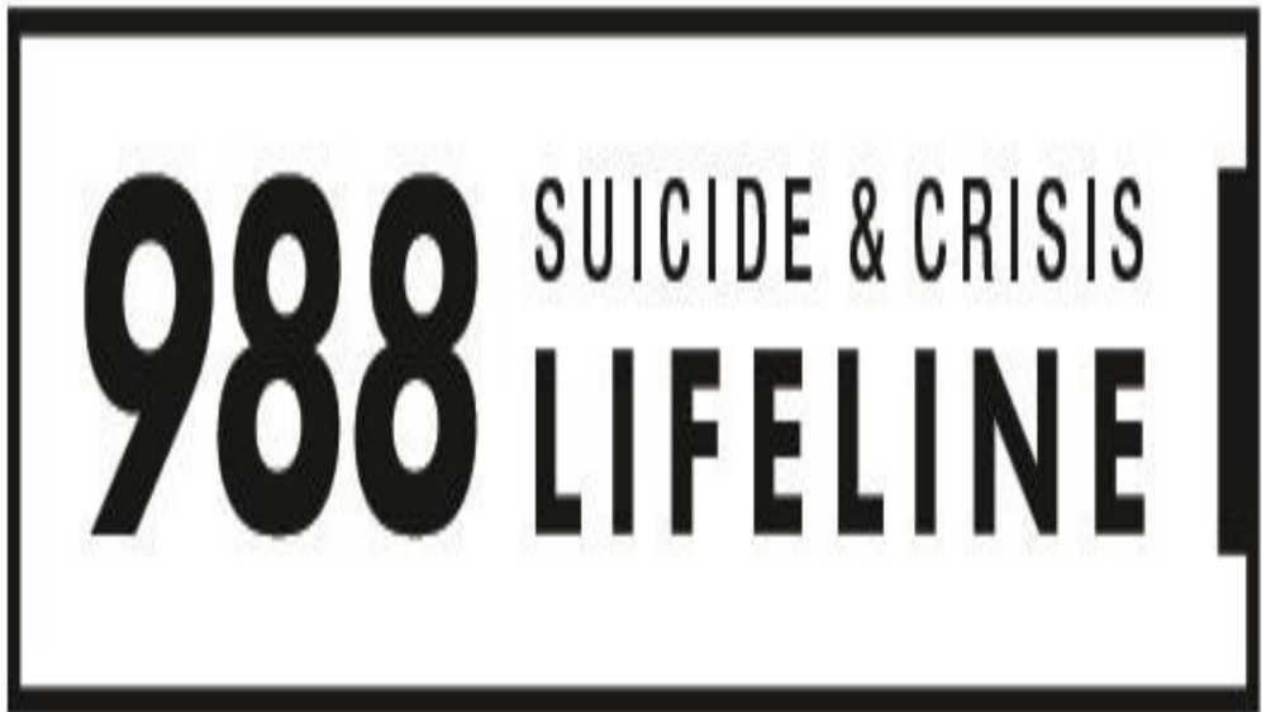


The Virgin Islands Consortium

The Numbers 988 is Dept. of Health's New Suicide Prevention Hotline Going Live July 16

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The V.I. Dept. of Health on Wednesday announced that beginning July 16, a new three-digit dialing code (988) connecting those in need to the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline will go live.

The new code makes it easier for anyone experiencing mental health-related distress — be it thoughts of suicide, mental health or substance use crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress to receive compassionate, accessible care and support.

Additionally, family and friends can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support, the department made known.

Moving to the new 988 number does not mean the 1-800-273-8255 number goes away, D.O.H. said. After July 16, 2022, using either number will get people to the same services.

Veterans, Service Members, and their families can press option 1 for services the same way they did when calling the 1-800-273-8255 number and Spanish speaking individuals can continue to utilize option 2 for assistance.

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