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Dept. of Education Announces Orientation Schedule for Public Schools and New Covid-19 Guidance Ahead of August 8 Reopening

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Students at the St. Croix Educational Complex High School. By. V.I. CONSORTIUM

The V.I. Dept. of Education has announced that new Covid-19 guidance for schools issued by the Virgin Islands Department of Health. The department also announced orientation schedules planned for the Aug. 8 reopening of school.

New COVID-19 Guidance for USVI Schools Issued By the V.I. Department of Health

- Masks are no longer required to be worn in schools; however, personal choice should be respected and encouraged for those who choose to wear a mask

- Mass testing of students and staff will no longer be required before returning to school after extended breaks; testing is recommended for anyone that is symptomatic
- Please social distance as best as possible on school campuses
 - Contact tracing will be conducted by DOH for every positive case; in the event there is an outbreak in a specific school, there is the potential to test that entire school

The main strategies for preventing COVID-19 in schools are:

- Staying up to date on vaccinations
- Staying home when sick
- Optimal ventilation systems to improve indoor air quality to reduce risk of germs
- Good hand hygiene and covering coughs and sneezes
- Cleaning and disinfection at least once a day to reduce risk of germs

Detailed guidance is also available at the following CDC site: [Schools, Child Care, and Colleges | COVID-19 | CDC](#)

2022-2023 Orientation Schedule – Virgin Islands Virtual Academy (VIVA)

A virtual orientation will be held for all VIVA students at 5:30 p.m. on August 4 via Microsoft Teams. A meeting invite will be shared with students enrolled in the program and their parents ahead of the orientation date.

See full orientation details [here](#).