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Dept. of Health Confirms 126th Death in USVI Related to Covid-19

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The V.I. Dept. of Health on Wednesday confirmed the 126th death tied to Covid-19 in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"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 one hundred and twenty-sixth (126th) death related to Covid-19. The deceased is a 93-year-old male on St. Croix," the department announced via release.

D.O.H. said it continues to work to slow the spread of the virus, and on Wednesday urged residents to remain vigilant as cases in the territory were on the rise.

As of Wednesday there were 89 active cases territory-wide: 57 on St. Croix and 32 on St. Thomas. St. John had no active cases, according to [latest data provided by D.O.H.](#) The seven-day positivity rate stood at 7.49 percent.

The latest numbers represent a doubling of cases when compared to [last week's territory-wide total of 44 active infections](#).

“As our numbers are rising. I urge residents and visitors to once again follow the precautionary measures by practicing social distancing around persons with whom you do not reside, wearing a mask in crowded public areas, washing your hands often with soap and warm water, and by cleaning frequently used areas thoroughly,” Dept. of Health Commissioner Justa Encarnacion said. “Remember, wearing a mask is not mandatory, but it can keep you safe if you are unsure of your environment.”

The department also reminded Virgin Islanders that it is especially important to get vaccinated now as the monoclonal antibody is no longer authorized for use due to its lack of efficacy in the treatment of the newest variants. The bivalent vaccines remain the best way to prevent severe disease and hospitalization, D.O.H. said.