## VI Department of Health Revives Free Covid-19 Testing Initiative

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The V.I. Department of Health announced Tuesday that it is reinstating its complimentary Covid-19 testing services this week. This development follows the successful transfer of its CDC support staff funding from federal to local sources, subsequent to the culmination of the nationwide public health emergency.

Dr. Esther Ellis, the territorial epidemiologist, outlined the upcoming schedule for the no-cost drive-through Covid-19 testing services:

- Starting this Wednesday, the testing site in St. Croix, which is located near VIDOH's red modulars in Estate Richmond, will operate from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. daily, excluding holidays.
- The testing site at the Schneider Regional Medical Center's loading dock in St. Thomas will open its doors on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., with operations commencing on July 6th.
- On St. John, testing services will resume on Wednesdays at the VIPA Gravel Lot, from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Additionally, DOH has reactivated its hotline, operating from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. For residents on St. Croix, the DOH Hotline can be reached at (340) 712-6299. On the other hand, those in St. Thomas-St. John can call 340-776-1519.

Residents can schedule their testing appointments online by visiting <a href="https://www.covid19.usvi.care/">https://www.covid19.usvi.care/</a> or by dialing the VIDOH Hotline.

DOH encouraged individuals who show symptoms similar to those of Covid-19 to promptly utilize these testing services.

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