

Cruise Ship Docks in Bermuda After Coronavirus Scare

[Pdf](#) Published On February 12, 2020 07:26 PM
Staff Consortium | February 12, 2020 07:26:44 PM



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Anthem of the Seas

HAMILTON, Bermuda, CMC — Passengers came ashore at Dockyard early on Wednesday from the cruise ship Anthem of the Seas, delayed last week in New Jersey over a coronavirus (Covid-19) scare.

HOW THE VIEDA IS SERVING YOU DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

To help ensure the safety and well-being of the U.S. Virgin Islands community, the Virgin Islands Economic Development Authority (VIEDA) has adjusted its operations in both districts due to the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.



CURRENT OFFICE OPERATIONS:

VIEDA staff will telecommute to continue serving its clients, stakeholders, and the community.



NO WALK-INS AND IN-PERSON APPOINTMENTS:

No walk-in customer services, in-person appointments and manual delivery of documents effective March 17, 2020 until further notice.



PAYMENTS & HAND-DELIVERED ITEMS:

To make payments online, visit the VIEDA website at www.usvieda.org/payment; or click on "Pay Online" on top right of the website homepage. To deliver items, file a document, or make any additional inquiries, please email infoeusvieda.org, or call **340-714-1700** (St. Thomas) & **340-773-6499** (St. Croix).



TIPS FOR CLIENTS & BUSINESS COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

The VIEDA encourages businesses in the community to create a contingency plan for their operations during this time of crisis.

The business community can review the Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers on the coronavirus at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

RESOURCES ON THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19):



- Virgin Islands Department of Health www.doh.vi.gov/coronavirus or Text **COVID19USVI** to **88877** or call **340-712-6299** or **340-776-1519**
- VI Territorial Emergency Management Agency: www.vitema.vi.gov
- Office of the Governor of the USVI: www.facebook.com/GovernmentHouseUSVI/
- Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC): www.cdc.gov
- World Health Organization (WHO): www.who.int

The Royal Caribbean vessel was found to be clear of the virus after several passengers were screened.

"We weren't expecting to be here but we're just glad to be somewhere," said one passenger from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, with his wife adding "it's probably better than most cruises we've been on — they treated us great."

The couple said "a lot of people bailed" after the cruise, scheduled to stop in Florida and sail on to the Bahamas, was rerouted to Bermuda on a shortened trip.

Tourism and Transport Minister Zane DeSilva, who was on the pilot boat as the ship neared Bermuda, described the mood on board the ship as "fantastic", adding "people are glad to be here.

"No one had any concerns. Our concern is for our people, and I am confident the US health officials have done their job," he said, adding "I am disappointed with a lot of the social media posts about this ship that were based on misinformation."

Several Caribbean countries have turned away cruise ships in recent days over fears that some of the passengers on board had contracted the Covid-19 that has killed more than 1,000 people in China.

The virus has now spread to several countries outside China.



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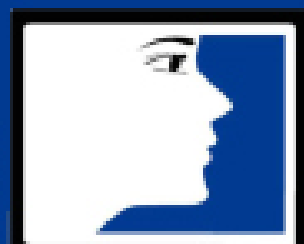
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