

Tropical Cyclone 9 - Virgin Islands July 29, 2020

Governor Albert Bryan Jr.

5047 (21-22) Kongens Gade

St. Thomas, VI 00802

(340) 774-0001

<https://www.vi.gov/governor-bryan>

<https://twitter.com/govbryan>

July 29, 2020:

During a press conference Tuesday afternoon, Governor Albert Bryan Jr. urged residents to stay vigilant and prepare for the weather system heading toward the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico that is expected to become a tropical storm at some point on Wednesday.

“I know that this is an incredibly stressful time for our residents, as we are also trying to protect ourselves against the spread of the Coronavirus, but we must not let our guard down on this front,” Governor Bryan said. “We have seen what can happen, and we also know what we can do when we prepare and when we come together.”

VITEMA Director Daryl Jaschen, who also was at the press conference, along with Human Services Commissioner Kimberley Causey-Gomez, said his agency is not issuing sandbags because of the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Sand and sand bags will not be issued for this storm so as not to have gatherings of individuals,” Director Jaschen said. “There is not time to prepare adequate mitigation measures for this storm.”

The Director also said that curfew passes are made by appointment only and there is a 10-day processing period.

“If a curfew goes into effect, unless you are directly involved in emergency response or

providing life-saving functions, stay off the road,” Director Jaschen said.

Commissioner Causey-Gomez also cited the COVID-19 pandemic as the reason for her decision not to open shelters for this weather event.

“While this could pose a problem for certain residents with existing roof and flooding problems, in order to limit the spread of Coronavirus and promote health and safety for our islands, the Government of the Virgin Islands will not open congregate shelters at this time,” she said.

The Governor also said he has submitted a request for a federal disaster declaration in advance of the approaching storm system.

“While we are hoping for the best, we are preparing for the worst,” Governor Bryan said. “We have seen in the past how unpredictable these weather systems are and know better than to trust the safety of our community to the whims of these storms.”

The Governor also asked residents to take an active part in keeping the community, and their loved ones, safe.

“If you have not already, please sign up for Alerts VI by visiting vitema.vi.gov,” Governor Bryan said. “Build a kit. Formulate a plan. Check on your neighbors, family and friends and ensure that they have a plan.”

Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency

8221 Estate Nisky
St. Thomas, VI 00803
(340) 774-2244
<http://www.vitema.vi.gov>
<https://www.facebook.com/vitema>
<https://www.twitter.com/readyusvi>

Red Cross

St. Croix Chapter Office
6035 Castle Coakley
St. Croix, VI 00820
340-778-5104

St. Thomas Chapter Office (serving St. Thomas, St. John and Water Island)
3800 Gasverks Gade #1
St. Thomas, VI 00802
340-774-0375

<https://www.redcross.org/local/us-virgin-islands.html>
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/RedCrossUSVI>
<https://www.twitter.com/redcross>

Department of Transportation

Department of Transportation U.S. Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands Division
350 Ave Carlos Chardon
Suite 210
San Juan PR 00918-2161
(787) 766-5600
<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/prdiv>

Virgin Islands Office of Highway Safety
(340) 772-3025

http://www.vipd.gov.vi/Departments/Office_of_the_Police_Commissioner/Office_of_Highway_Safety.aspx

United Way/211 Information and Referrals Lines

These information and referral lines may know of additional resources currently providing assistance, such as food pantries, clothing closets, emergency shelters, and agencies offering financial assistance. Please call and provide your zip code and demographic information in order to receive referrals.

St. Croix

5025 Anchor Way
Second Floor- Suite 2
Christiansted, St. Croix, VI 00820
340-774-3185

St. Thomas

8000 Nisky Shopping Center
Suite 220
St Thomas, VI 00802
340-714-3158

<http://www.unitedwayusvi.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/unitedwayusvi>

https://twitter.com/unitedway_usvi

(For natural disasters)

NATIONAL RESOURCES:**FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)**

500 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20472
(800) 621-3362

<http://www.fema.gov>

Please visit the website and click on "*Disaster Declarations*". If a disaster is declared, please call to apply for assistance by phone, or visit <http://www.fema.gov/apply-assistance> to apply online.

DISASTERASSISTANCE.GOV

<https://www.disasterassistance.gov>

Offers information about local resources for disasters, including: FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs), Red Cross, food, shelter, state emergency management agencies, and hospital locators.

To determine if individual disaster assistance is available through FEMA, please visit the website and enter the address.

To locate your local state emergency management agency for disaster information and updates, please visit <http://www.fema.gov/emergency-management-agencies>

AMERICAN RED CROSS NATIONAL

National Headquarters
2025 East Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 303-4498 or (800) 733-2767

<http://www.redcross.org>

Please call or visit the website to locate your local chapter and open shelters.

AMERICAN RED CROSS SAFE AND WELL LIST

<https://safeandwell.communityos.org/cms/index.php>

Residents affected can notify their friends and family that they are safe by visiting the website and selecting “*List Myself as Safe and Well.*” Individuals can also search for loved ones by selecting “*Search Registrants.*”

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Weather alerts by state are available at <http://www.weather.gov/alerts>.

THE WEATHER CHANNEL

Local forecasts and severe weather alerts, available at <http://www.weather.com>.

NATIONAL TRAFFIC AND ROAD CLOSURE INFORMATION

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/trafficinfo>

SAFE TRAVEL USA

<http://www.safetravelusa.com>

Free Help Line: Optum, a leading health and behavioral health services company, is offering a free emotional-support help line.

The toll-free number, **866-342-6892**, will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for as long as necessary. The service is free of charge and open to anyone. Specially trained Optum mental health specialists help people manage their stress and anxiety so they can continue to address their everyday needs. Callers may also receive referrals to community resources to help them with specific concerns, including financial and legal matters.

Along with the toll-free help line, emotional-support resources and information are available online at <https://www.liveandworkwell.com>