## **Virgin Islands Housing Authority**

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Office of the Executive Director

PRESS RELEASE: For Immediate Release January 10, 2022 Media Contact Person: George Silcott Special Assistant Tel: 340-244-6606 gsilcott@vihousing.org

## VIHA EXTENDS OFFICE CLOSURE IN BOTH DISTRICTS, AND TELEWORK CONTINUES

(January 10, 2022, St. Thomas U.S. Virgin Islands) Due to the surge in active COVID-19 cases driven by the Omicron variant, the Virgin Islands Housing Authority (VIHA) will extend the suspension of all in-person contact with the public throughout its facilities in the territory through Friday, January 14, 2022. VIHA's employees will continue to work remotely.

All Section 3 Workers are to remain at home during this period unless otherwise specified.

While all in-person contact has been suspended, VIHA's staff is still available remotely and can be reached via telephone and email. To report concerns and emergencies, public housing residents are asked to contact VIHA's Emergency After-hours answering service at (305) 447-2464. Alternative contact numbers for the site staff are also posted on the door of each management office. Be advised that non-essential repairs will be postponed until further notice.

Clients of the Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) can contact the office on St. Croix at 340-690-4789, and St. Thomas at 340-626-2024 & 340-513-0337, Monday thru Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Clients in both districts, can also contact the HCVP via email at hcvp@vihousing.org.

VIHA apologizes for any inconveniences the operational changes may cause, but the safety of our staff is paramount. Public health experts anticipate the rise in active cases will continue for some unknown timeframe. Thus, VIHA will use this time to solidify the plan for employees to fully report to work in person.

VIHA also encourages its employees, residents, and the public to follow the precautionary measures outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Department of Health, and the Office of the Governor, to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.