PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER No. XIX

WHEREAS, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission and presents itself with symptoms similar to those of influenza; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has declared a National Disaster related to the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, individuals in the Territory of the Virgin Islands have been pre-emptively isolated and tested for COVID-19, and the CDC currently recommends mitigation measures in communities with potential COVID-19 cases, including staying at home when sick, keeping away from others who are sick and staying at home when a household member is sick with respiratory disease symptoms or if instructed to do so by public health officials or a health care provider; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate to take action to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled and that residents and visitors in the U.S. Virgin Islands remain safe and secure; and

WHEREAS, The Governor of the Virgin Islands, Albert Bryan, Jr. on March 13, 2020, declared a State of Emergency in the Virgin Islands due to COVID-19 and appointed the Commissioner of Health as the Incident Commander and the Department of Health (“VIDOH”) as the lead agency in the territorial response to the COVID-19 pandemic and such declared State of Emergency remains in full force and effect; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to impose guidelines and restrictions to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Territory from the potentially dangerous effects of the COVID-19 – Coronavirus Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, travel restrictions have been ordered by the Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands to ensure the safety of the Virgin Islands community and, pursuant to the Thirty-Fifth Supplemental Executive Order, any individual traveling to the U.S. Virgin Islands is required to produce prior to travel, proof a negative PCR or Antigen test or proof of vaccination.
WHEREAS, in accordance with Title 3, Section 418(5) & (6) and Title 23, Section 1033(b) of the Virgin Islands Code, the Incident Commander is to take all actions necessary to protect the public health; and

WHEREAS all vessels operating within Territorial waters must comply with the laws of the United States Virgin Islands.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Justa E. Encarnacion, Commissioner of Health of the United States Virgin Islands and Incident Commander for the U.S. Virgin Islands during the State of Health Emergency Due To Covid-19 – Coronavirus Pandemic, by virtue of the authority granted to me by Title 3, Section 418 and Title 19, Section 2 of the Virgin Islands Code, Title 19, Section 001-000 of the Virgin Islands Rules and Regulations, and Executive Order and Proclamation Declaring a State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 – CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC issued on March 13, 2020, as amended and supplemented, in order to protect the public health during the State of Emergency, do hereby ORDER as follows:

➢ That all persons, whether passenger or crew, cruise line or airline, entering the United States Virgin Islands, whether by Air or by Sea, shall comply with the mandates set forth by the V.I. Department of Health and may, on a case-by-case basis, request a review for exemption from the provisions of this Order.

➢ Any cruise ship showing a COVID-19 positivity or infection rate greater than 3% for crew members on board, cannot disembark at any port or any other location in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

➢ Any cruise ship showing a COVID-19 positivity or infection rate greater than 3% for passengers on board, cannot disembark at any port or any other location in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

➢ That all cruise lines entering the territorial waters of the U.S. Virgin Islands are required to provide notification to VIDOH as well as the receiving cruise ship dock, the V.I. Port Authority or the West Indian Company Limited, of any potentially ill passengers and/or crew members, and/or any medical concerns that require treatment. This notification is parallel with the United States Coast Guard (USCG) regulations which requires a similar notification to the Unified Command System (UCS).

I SO ORDER, in Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, this the 1st day of March, A.D., 2022.

[Signature]
Justa E. Encarnacion, RN, BSN, MBA/HCM
Commissioner, Territorial Health Official, Incident Commander