GOVERNMENT HOUSE
UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 14, 2022
Press Contact
Richard Motta
340-474-2399
www.vi.gov
richard.mottajr@go.vi.gov

Governor Bryan Clarifies Cruise Ship Requirements In Light of Recent Incidents and End of Required CDC Guidance

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS — Governor Albert Bryan Jr. is clarifying for the public that although the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is making compliance optional for its Framework for Conditional Sailing Order, the Government of the Virgin Islands has individual contracts with each cruise line that supersedes CDC mandates.

"In many ways, our protocols and guidelines are even more stringent than some of the CDC's guidelines. While we don't want to turn away any of our cruise partners, the Administration's primary goal is to keep our residents and visitors safe during this pandemic," Governor Bryan said. "We met with each cruise line that visits the USVI and they have signed contracts agreeing to comply with our protocols and regulations. The CDC making its cruise ship guidelines optional won't affect any of our agreements with the cruise lines."

Under the current agreements the GVI has with its cruise line partners:

- Ships can not exceed a 1% positivity rate, and if a ship exceeds that, neither passengers nor crew will be allowed to disembark.
- Any passenger or crew that tests positive cannot disembark.
- Ships must have COVID-safe procedures in place in case of emergencies that require a transfer to the hospital.

The CDC uses a color-coding system to monitor COVID cases aboard cruise ships and all ships on the current list are either green, yellow or orange, which means the volume of Covid cases they have reported meets the CDC's threshold for investigation.

Starting January 15, participation in the CDC program will be voluntary, and those ships choosing not to participate will be designated gray, which means the CDC has not reviewed them for COVID safety.

The Bryan-Roach Administration is investing in the Territory's people, infrastructure and future through transparency, stabilizing the economy, restoring trust in the government and ensuring that recovery projects are completed as quickly as possible. Visit transparency.vi.gov

###