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Governor Bryan Requests Extension to State of Emergency

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS – On Tuesday, December 28, 2021, Governor Albert Bryan Jr. sent down proposed legislation to Senate President Donna Frett-Gregory requesting that the 34th Legislature approve a 90-day extension to the current State of Emergency he proclaimed in March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The current State of Emergency extension is set to expire on Monday, January 10, 2022, and Governor Bryan is requesting that it remains in effect until April 10, 2022.

The Governor's request follows the spike in active COVID-19 cases that struck the USVI during the Christmas holiday weekend and currently is increasing the number of cases at an exponential rate because of the highly contagious Omicron variant of the virus, which has reignited the pandemic nationally and globally.

"Thus, we have begun to, once again, adapt and prepare for an increase in active cases, hospitalizations, and possible deaths," Governor Bryan wrote in his transmittal letter to Senate President Donna Frett-Gregory. "The principal reason for seeking an extended Extension of the State of Health Emergency is to keep our community safe.

The Governor also noted that the extension of the State of Health Emergency will continue to provide access to funds and resources that the Territory would not otherwise have.

"Our hospitals like many across the country, are suffering from the lack of staffing linked to the workload, deaths of colleagues in the clinical world, and increase in the national pay scale," Governor Bryan wrote. "The Federal State of Emergency has allowed us to tap into FEMA funding that supports staffing throughout the Territory and allows for the continued activation of Title 32 and the assistance of the Virgin Islands National Guard."

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

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