



**GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES**

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**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, December 11, 2020

**CHARLES WESLEY TURNBULL REGIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARY ESSAY CONTEST**

Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources announces that the Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums (DLAM) is hosting an essay contest for students from K-12 in the St. Thomas district titled, "**THE PERSON BEHIND THE MASK ESSAY CONTEST.**" The topic for the contest is COVID-19: How has it affected you and/or your family. **THE PERSON BEHIND THE MASK ESSAY CONTEST** will allow students to express their thoughts, feelings, and experiences about the pandemic in word and in art form.

Here are the rules for each grade level and judging criteria:

**K-2nd grade:** Write a total of 3 sentences with each sentence describing a different emotion (i.e.: happy, sad, mad, etc. & draw a picture showing one of the emotions).

**3rd-6th grade:** Write an essay about your experience during Covid-19, using 50 words or less, entitled "**THE PERSON BEHIND THE MASK,**" and draw a picture corresponding to the essay.

**7th-12th grade:** Write an essay about your experience during Covid-19, using 60-100 words, entitled "**THE PERSON BEHIND THE MASK,**" and draw a picture corresponding to the essay.

All essays and drawings must be turned in by **4p.m on Wednesday, December 23, 2020.** Winners will be announced on Friday, January 08, 2021. Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 winners of each grade level. Participant must include a cover page with their name, grade, school, and contact information. Your essay can be submitted at Charles Wesley Turnbull Regional Public Library in Tutu or online to: [diam\\_trg@dpr.vi.gov](mailto:diam_trg@dpr.vi.gov).

For more information on contest rules and judging criteria, please visit <https://dpr.vi.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/The-Person-Behind-the-Mask-Essay-Contest.pdf>.