



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Office of the Commissioner

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEACH ADVISORY

The Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) announces that the Beach Water Quality Monitoring Program, which evaluates weekly water quality at popular swimming beaches throughout the Territory by sampling for Enterococci, Bacteria and Turbidity, which is a measure of water clarity, advises the public of the following:

DPNR performed water quality analysis at 17 designated beaches throughout the Territory during the week of July 1 – July 5, 2024. However, the Territory experienced significant rain in the days following sample collection. Please be advised that there may be an elevated health risk to anyone swimming in storm water-impacted areas because of increased concentrations of bacteria or other contaminants.

The following beaches meet water quality standards and are considered safe for swimming and fishing:

St. Thomas		
Lindbergh Bay	Secret Harbor	Bluebeard’s Beach
Frenchman’s Bay	Hull Bay	Lindqvist Beach
Vessup Bay	Bolongo Bay	Brewers Bay
Magens Bay	Coki Point	Sapphire Beach

St. John		
Great Cruz Bay	Johnson Bay	Cruz Bay
Oppenheimer Beach	Frank Bay	

Samples were not collected on the following beach due to excessive sargassum:

- *Water Bay on St. Thomas*

PLEASE NOTE: Samples were not collected on St. Croix or Water Island. Therefore, the water quality at these beaches is unknown.

All persons should be aware that storm water runoff may also contain contaminants or pollutants harmful to human health and therefore, should avoid areas of storm water runoff (i.e., guts, puddles, and drainage basins) or any area that appears discolored or has foul odors. DPNR will continue to monitor impacted areas and waters.

For additional information regarding water quality call the Division of Environmental Protection at 773-1082 in St. Croix or 774-3320 in St. Thomas.