



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) announced 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, a measure of water clarity, did not perform water quality tests for the past week. The shipment of lab supplies needed for analyzing beach water samples has been delayed. Therefore, the water quality at the Territory's beaches is unknown.

Please be advised that anyone swimming in waters contaminated with stormwater, sewage, or with large amounts of sargassum may be at an elevated health risk due to higher concentrations of bacteria or other contaminants. Water impacted by stormwater runoff (i.e., guts, puddles, and drainage basins), sewage, large amounts of sargassum, or any area that appears discolored or has foul odors should be avoided.

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