



Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

Office of the Commissioner

May 4, 2022

**Ms. Bonnie Brathwaite**  
**SNAP Regional Division Director**  
**USDA/FNS Northeast Regional Office #10**  
**Causeway Street, Room 501**  
**Boston, MA 02222**

**RE: USDA/FNS Emergency Allotment Request**

Dear Director Brathwaite:

As part of the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services (VIDHS) Pandemic Contingency Plan, I am requesting approval of the attached request to provide an emergency allotment to bring all households up to the maximum benefit for the month of May 2022. On March 14, 2022, through the 36<sup>th</sup> Supplemental Executive Order, Governor Albert Bryan, Jr. issued a State of Emergency and Public Health declaration which continued the level of precaution and preventative measures for the V.I. because of the Coronavirus Pandemic. No new order has been given nor has this order expired. The Governor continues to urge all residents to adhere to the CDC guidance for social distancing and health safety.

As an essential agency, VIDHS is committed to providing our clients with the optimal level of service needed, while at the same time ensuring their safety and the safety of our employees. SNAP Certification offices remain accessible to the public via telephone and internet services. Customers are encouraged to download the application and change forms located on the DHS website.

Customers are encouraged to email, mail, fax documents or deposit them in a secure drop box located at each local office. The agency will expand telephone coverage to ensure responsive customer service. Frequent public service announcements will be done to inform the community of all program and procedural changes as well as appearances on radio broadcasts which will be available on our DHS Facebook page and DHS website, when at all possible. On behalf of my VIDHS SNAP staff, I would like to express our appreciation for the continued support and cooperation received from you and your staff at the Northeast Regional Office (NERO).

Sincerely,

  
Kimberley Causey- Gomez  
Commissioner

cc: Charmaine Modeste-Antoine, CFO  
Natalie L. Bailey, SNAP Administrator

Michal Rhymer-Browne, Assistant Commissioner  
Emmanuelle Archer, SNAP Territorial Director

## State Template – FFCRA SNAP Emergency Allotment Request

States must provide the following to their FNS Regional SNAP contact(s) for each month covered by this request.

State/Territory: Virgin Islands

1. [May] EA Issuance date(s): May 21, 2022  
(Provide exact dates of planned EA issuance for the month or annotate above if the State will be providing EA benefits in accordance with the State's regular issuance schedule.)
2. [May] estimate of the number of households and estimated EA amount:  
Number of households receiving emergency allotment benefits: 10,951 Amount  
of emergency allotment benefits issued per month: 2,034,330.00
3. **Confirmation** that one or more of the following conditions exists due to COVID-19.  
(Check all that apply):
  - Residents of the State are confirmed to have contracted COVID-19
  - Some or all areas of the State are containment or quarantine zones
  - Businesses have closed or significantly reduced their hours
  - The State's residents have experienced economic impacts due to job suspensions or losses
  - The State's residents have been directed to practice social distancing**And**
  - The State's emergency or disaster declaration remains active

USDA reserves the right to withdraw or otherwise modify this approval subject to availability of funding.

## P-SNAP (Emergency Allotment) Updated Schedule

- 04/29/2022 – Added May 2022 P-SNAP schedule

<b>P-SNAP for March 2022</b>		
1. Issue March 2022 P-SNAP to ongoing cases	March 19, 2022 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM CST	Completed
2. List of SNAP cases with less than <u>\$10 benefits in March 2022</u>	March 19, 2022 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM CST	Completed
3. Issue March 2022 P-SNAP to applications approved after March 19, 2022	April 23, 2022 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM CST	Completed
4. Issue March 2022 P-SNAP to applications approved after April 23, 2022	May 21, 2022 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM CST	Scheduled
5. EA run as requested	TBD	DFA will inform PSI if additional EA run is needed
<b>P-SNAP for April 2022</b>		
6. Issue April 2022 P-SNAP to ongoing cases	April 23, 2022 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM CST	Completed
7. List of SNAP cases with less than <u>\$10 benefits in April 2022</u>	April 23, 2022 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM CST	Completed
8. Issue April 2022 P-SNAP to applications approved after April 23, 2022	May 21, 2022 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM CST	Scheduled
9. Issue April 2022 P-SNAP to applications approved after May 21, 2022	June 25, 2022 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM CST	Scheduled
10. EA run as requested	TBD	DFA will inform PSI if additional EA run is needed
<b>P-SNAP for May 2022 (Waiting for Approval)</b>		
11. Issue May 2022 P-SNAP to ongoing cases	May 21, 2022 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM CST	Scheduled
12. List of SNAP cases with less than <u>\$10 benefits in May 2022</u>	May 21, 2022 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM CST	Scheduled Cases need to be manually approved
13. Issue May 2022 P-SNAP to applications approved after May 21, 2022	June 25, 2022 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM CST	Scheduled
14. Issue May 2022 P-SNAP to applications approved after June 25, 2022	July 23, 2022 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM CST	Scheduled
15. EA run as requested	TBD	DFA will inform PSI if additional EA run is needed



**THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802  
340-774-0001**

**THIRTY-SIXTH SUPPLEMENTAL EXECUTIVE ORDER AND PROCLAMATION  
BY THE GOVERNOR  
OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS  
MODIFYING CONDITIONS OF THE "SAFER-AT-HOME" PHASE  
IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY**

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**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the Governor issued the Executive Order and Proclamation Declaring a State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 – CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC ("Declaration of a State of Emergency"), and the Government has been coordinating the Territory's response and enforcing protective actions to address "COVID-19", a public health emergency that currently requires the Government to act and provide for the health, safety, and welfare of residents and visitors located in the Virgin Islands; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 2, 2020, the President of the United States declared that a major disaster exists in the Territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands based on COVID-19, and this major disaster declaration has not been lifted; and

**WHEREAS**, from March 13, 2020, through February 2022, the Governor has issued subsequent Executive Orders or Supplements with additional requirements and lifting of other restrictions of previous Executive Orders and Supplements to return to the "Safer-at-Home Phase"; and

**WHEREAS**, the "Safer-at-Home Phase" requires continuous guidance to be given to the public about what is restricted and permissible during this phase and while still within a "State of Emergency" due to the danger and threat of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the Executive Order Declaring a State of Emergency dated March 13, 2020, invoked the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Act, 23 V.I.C. § 1001 - 1016 and authorized the Governor to exercise the powers and duties set forth therein to direct and aid the response to, recovery from, and guidance for the mitigation as well as response to emergencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Virgin Islands Department of Health (“DOH”) received confirmation that, as of March 10, 2022, as many as 15,556 persons, including 109 deceased persons, tested positive for COVID-19 in the Virgin Islands, with 32 active cases, and additional testing of individuals for COVID-19 are ongoing or pending; and

**WHEREAS**, modifying the guidelines and restrictions during the Territory’s “Safer-at-Home Phase” is vital to the protection, health, safety, and welfare of residents and visitors of the Territory as well as continuing the response and mitigation process;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Albert Bryan Jr, Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, under the authority granted to me by Section 11 of the Revised Organic Act of 1954 (as amended), 23 V.I.C. § 1005, and pursuant to all the afore-cited sections of the Virgin Islands Code, as well as all previous Executive Orders issued from March 13, 2020, through February 28, 2022, as amended, supplemented, renewed, and extended, do hereby ORDER as follows:

**SECTION 1.** Effective immediately, Section 1 of the *35<sup>th</sup> Supplemental Executive Order* issued on February 28, 2022, is amended by striking the section in its entirety and replacing it with the following new Section 1:

**SECTION 1. General COVID-19 Orders:** The following ORDERS shall remain in full force and effect so long as the Territory remains in the State of Emergency declared on March 13, 2020, as amended, supplemented, extended, and renewed unless earlier lifted or until rescinded or superseded by another applicable Executive Order of the Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands:

**A. *Masks:***

- 1) Masks or facial coverings are not required to be worn in the Territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands, except:
  - i. in indoor and outdoor spaces at all ports of entry;
  - ii. in indoor and outdoor spaces at public, private, and parochial schools; and
  - iii. in all hospitals, nursing homes, and healthcare facilities.
- 2) Notwithstanding the above, masks or facial coverings do not have to be worn during active exercise, indoor or outdoor.
- 3) Businesses may establish their own policies for mask-wearing by employees and customers in their establishment.

**B. *Social Distancing:*** In coordination with the Commissioner of the DOH and in alignment with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), all persons are recommended to maintain social distancing of at least four feet away from other people that are not of their same household, whenever possible. All individuals are urged to continue washing



their hands, utilizing hand sanitizer, and practicing proper respiratory etiquette (including coughing into the elbow) as often as possible.

- C. **Mass Gatherings:** any event or convening that brings together more than 999 persons in a single room or single space at the same time must obtain approval from the Commissioner of Health or her designee, in addition to any other regulatory agency with jurisdiction, prior to the gathering. "Spaces" shall include but are not limited to an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, theater, restaurant, bar, parking lot, or any other confined indoor or outdoor space. This includes all parades, fairs, campaign events, festivals, and camping on public beaches or parks."

**SECTION 2.** All other terms, requirements, and conditions of the March 13, 2020, State of Emergency, as amended, supplemented, renewed, and extended shall continue in full force and effect unless earlier lifted, further amended, or extended by order of the Governor of the United States Virgin Islands.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March, A.D., 2022.



  
Albert Bryan Jr.  
Governor

ATTEST:

  
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Donna A. Frett-Gregory  
Acting Lt. Governor