



# THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## Office of Public Relations

1834 Kongens Gade, Charlotte Amalie \* St. Thomas \* U.S. Virgin Islands 00802-6746  
Telephone: 340.774.0100 Ext. 8136 Fax: 340.774.1168  
340.773.1095 Ext. 7064 Fax: 340.773.4624

September 9, 2021

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Cynthia T. Graham  
Director, Public Relations & Communications  
(340) 773-1095, Ext. 7064  
[cynthia.graham@vide.vi](mailto:cynthia.graham@vide.vi)  
[www.vide.vi](http://www.vide.vi)  
[www.facebook.com/usvi.vide](https://www.facebook.com/usvi.vide)

### **Ulla F. Muller Elementary School Returns to Virtual Learning Sept. 9 and 10**

ST. THOMAS, USVI -- The Ulla F. Muller Elementary School on St. Thomas will revert to virtual learning on Sept. 9 and 10, due to confirmed COVID-19 exposure on the campus. School and district officials were informed of the exposures by the V.I. Department of Health on Sept. 8. An announcement will be made on when the campus would reopen for in-person learning.

Meal distribution in the ‘No V.I. Child Goes Hungry’ Feeding Initiative is not affected at the Muller campus and will operate as normal.

As part of the Department of Education’s COVID-19 protocols, the affected areas of the campus will be thoroughly sanitized using the appropriate, CDC-approved sanitizing solutions. Department officials pointed out that it is to be expected that there would be COVID-19 exposure on campuses as schools operate during the pandemic; however, all schools have the appropriate safety protocols in place to address cases as they arise.

“While we very much prefer to have our students on our campuses, their health and safety, and that of our staff, are top priorities,” said Commissioner Racquel Berry-Benjamin. “All of our school campuses have the capability to seamlessly move between in-person and virtual learning as we continue to educate students during the pandemic. We ask everyone to do their part—get vaccinated, continue to social distance, wash hands frequently, wear a mask—so that students can continue to learn uninterrupted on our school campuses.”

The Department wishes to remind employees who are sick to remain at home. If an employee has undergone COVID-19 testing, he or she should remain quarantined until negative COVID-19 test results are received. If an employee tests positive for COVID-19, he or she should seek further guidance from the V.I. Department of Health or a healthcare provider.

Parents are also informed that if they or anyone in their household test positive for COVID-19 or have COVID-19-related symptoms, children in that household should not attend in-person classes. All members of the household must remain in quarantine until negative COVID-19 test results are received or until all members have been cleared by the V.I. Department of Health. To knowingly expose others to COVID-19 is punishable by fines and imprisonment.

The COVID-19 vaccine is available to all USVI residents aged 12 and up. Visit [www.covid19usvi.com/vaccines](http://www.covid19usvi.com/vaccines) for more information and to schedule an appointment to receive the free COVID-19 vaccine.

###