



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Education Commissioner Racquel Berry-Benjamin Tests Positive for COVID-19

ST. THOMAS, USVI – Virgin Islands Department of Education Commissioner Racquel Berry-Benjamin has tested positive for COVID-19. Berry-Benjamin underwent COVID-19 testing on Sept. 10, after experiencing symptoms overnight on Sept. 9.

Berry-Benjamin did not perform any official duties following an emergency press conference she hosted on Sept. 9.

Assistant Education Commissioner Victor Somme III will serve as Acting Commissioner while Berry-Benjamin recuperates.

Berry-Benjamin has been fully vaccinated since February 2021.

During a telephone call to staff on Friday evening, Berry-Benjamin said employees and the community should continue to follow all COVID-19 safety protocols, as the coronavirus remains prevalent, and all are susceptible to it.

The Department of Education extends best wishes for a speedy recovery to Commissioner Berry-Benjamin and thanks the community for its support.

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