



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES
Department of Human Services
“Working Together to Make a Difference”

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

19 June 2020

Dear Community Partner,

The Virgin Islands Department of Human (VIDHS) Services is pleased to announce the opportunity to partner with us to help keep our St. John/Water Island community safe by supplying a non-congregate sheltering choice for residents.

Due to the global COVID-19 Pandemic, we are exploring options to include congregate and non-congregate sheltering. Historically, the Government of the Virgin Islands (GVI) has provided evacuation/congregate sheltering on St. John at Julius Sprauve School and on Water Island the VI Fire Station. Although this congregate sheltering site is available and a practical option, best practices for sheltering is practicing social distancing. This is best done through non-congregate sheltering (i.e. hotels, dormitories, campgrounds, individual rooms).

Our ASK to owners of condos, apartments and villas is to partner with us to supply non-congregate sheltering during the 2020 Hurricane Season (June 1 – November 30, 2020). The VIDHS will screen all residents when entering a congregate shelter 24-48 hours prior to an impending storm. In the event a resident is not able to be in a congregate shelter, (i.e. an individual who is asymptomatic high-risk individuals needing social distancing as a precautionary measure, such as people over 65 or with certain underlying health conditions (respiratory, compromised immunities, chronic disease and/or have a temperature of 100.4 or above) would be referred to a non-congregate shelter. The length of time in a non-congregate shelter depends on the need and may be negotiated individually.

We appreciate your consideration and if you have questions, please email Kimberley Causey-Gomez, Commissioner of the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services at Kimberley.causeygomez@dhs.vi.gov.

Blessings for a safe and healthy Hurricane Season.

Kimberley Causey-Gomez
Commissioner