



THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

## USVI JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## VI Government Wages Unified Effort to Address Potable Water Quality on St. Croix

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS – Governor Albert Bryan Jr. appeared live Tuesday in a briefing from Government House on St. Croix to inform the community about the VI government’s actions to address high levels of lead and copper reported in recent water testing in some areas on St. Croix.

Extremely high levels of lead and copper were detected in potable water in specific St. Croix locations, including Estates Colquhoun, Mon Bijou, Castle Burke, and Diamond.

“I stand before you as your Governor with the unwavering commitment to the wellbeing of the residents of this community,” Governor Bryan said, emphasizing that the Virgin Islands government is working diligently to verify the initial testing that was reported by the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (WAPA) on Saturday, Oct. 14.

On Monday, Governor Bryan announced that WAPA had issued a "no drinking or consumption" advisory for the potable water system and on Tuesday he said that the VI government had invited the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in to review, confirm, and validate the testing protocols to ensure the utmost accuracy and safety of St. Croix’s residents.

“We recognize the gravity of the situation and understand the distress this news has probably caused some people,” Governor Bryan said, stressing that the potable water system in the Virgin Islands has never tested high for lead in the past.

Nonetheless, as a result of the latest report, the VI government has mobilized resources to the affected areas and has put a comprehensive plan in place. In the short term, WAPA is clearing water lines by flushing them to remove sediment.

The VI Department of Health advises the St. Croix community of the following:

1. Do not consume potable water: Until it can be confirmed that the water is safe, do not drink potable water or use it for cooking.

2. Use alternative water sources such as bottled water or water from a known safe source for drinking and cooking.

On Tuesday, safe water was delivered to Alfredo Andrews Elementary School, the St. Croix Educational Complex and John H. Woodson Jr. High School, all of which use potable water for cooking purposes.

The VI Government is prioritizing additional testing to be sure the water supply is safe. More information will be disseminated to the public as it is received.

There are two Department of Health hotlines available for residents to call from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday with any concerns regarding health related to water quality. Individuals may call 340-712-6299 on St. Croix and 340-776-1519 on St Thomas-St. John. The Department of Planning and Natural Resources also operates a hotline number, 340-514-3666, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Department of Health advises the community that testing for lead exposure is available at the Frederiksted Health Center on St. Croix and the St. Thomas East End Medical Center at Tutu Park Mall on St. Thomas. The Bryan-Roach Administration is investing in the Territory's people, infrastructure, and future through transparency, stabilizing the economy, restoring trust in the government and ensuring that recovery projects are completed as quickly as possible. Visit [transparency.vi.gov](https://transparency.vi.gov)

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