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**POINT OF CONTACT**

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**VI Department of Health Closes Richmond Offices Due to Noxious Odor**

ST. CROIX – The V.I. Department of Health closed its offices at Estate Richmond, St. Croix, at 1 p.m. today due to a noxious odor permeating its modulars, possibly caused by sargassum.

The Richmond modules include VI Health’s offices for EMS Regulatory, Environmental Health, Vital Statistics, Family Planning, Professional Licensure, Revenue Services as well as the Women, Infant and Children and Infant and Toddlers programs.

Health Commissioner Justa Encarnacion has asked the VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) to investigate the source of the odor and will make a determination on reopening the Richmond modules following DPNR’s assessment.

The public will be notified as soon as new information becomes available. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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