

WSVI-WZVI-Quarterly Issues and Problems Report
From July 1, 2021-September, 30 2021

WSVI TV returned to the air on September 20, 2019. On September 21, 2018 WZVI returned to the air in a testing mode at low power. It remains our goal to return to the air as soon as possible. To serve the public during this time Alpha Broadcasting attempted to maintain a 24/7 live stream of its programming incorporating many of its program elements. This report is prepared for continuity for the public file system and reflects some of the issues and concerns guiding our online and streaming coverage of our community.

Covid 19 in the Virgin Islands

The COVID-19 fatality toll in Q2 2021 in the U.S. Virgin Islands rose to 73 after the V.I. Department of Health reported the death of a 78-year-old woman on St. Croix at the end of Q2.

According to the territorywide statistics posted by the department, there have been 44 COVID deaths on St. Thomas, 26 on St. Croix, and three on St. John.

As of Friday, there were 23 active cases of the disease on St. Thomas, 129 active cases on St. Thomas and two on St. John.

The department broadcast over Channel 8 TV emphasizing that getting vaccinated against the disease is one of the most important steps to stop the coronavirus from spreading through the population. Residents can schedule an appointment by calling 340-777-8277 or going online at covid19usvi.com/vaccines.

WSVI TV reported in its news and special daily Covid programs that St. Croix's Community Vaccination Center is at the Nissan Center in La Grande Princesse, adjacent to the Honda Dealership and The Paint Shop, on the same side of the street as Food Town.

On St. Thomas, the Community Vaccination Center is at the Community Health Clinic on the second floor at the Schneider Regional Medical Center.

The department also urges residents to continue following the safety protocols that have been urged since the beginning of the pandemic: practice social distancing, wear a mask when in the company of others outside of those in your household, clean frequently used areas thoroughly, and wash your hands often with soap and warm water.

WSVI News also carried the story extensively first reported by the Virgin Islands Consortium whose news service we collaborate with that the V.I. Department of Justice Attorney has filed a criminal charge against Senator Marvin Blyden for willfully exposing the public to a contagious disease after testing positive for Covid-

19, following a DOJ investigation, V.I. Attorney General Denise George has announced.

The D.O.J. said Mr. Blyden is alleged to have tested positive for Covid-19 on September 15, and was ordered to quarantine until September 25, according to Department of Health officials. However, members of the community, witnessed Senator Blyden out at an event at Tillet Gardens, on September 18, 2021, when he should have been home quarantining.

Every broadcast day during this period Channel 8 TV has been airing 2 two-hour blocks of special programming focusing on the many unique challenges faced by the Caribbean in coping with the Covid Crisis between 2 and 4 PM and 8 to 10 PM. Much of the information from the mainland about covid has scant relevance to the unique geo-socio circumstances of the Virgin Islands. Therefore Channel 8 made a concerted effort to develop unique programming on a daily basis.

Typical topics have been

- Crisis in at Home Schooling and the psychological development of the Caribbean child.
- Domestic Violence issues during stay at home orders
- The shutdown of the tourism industry due to covid
- Issues of import to boat operators who face rules and restrictions in our anchorages.
- Rise in Crime
- Special Education students and the challenges of home schooling.

We have worked closely with the Virgin Islands Department of Health, The Virgin Islands Police Department, The Virgin Islands Department of Education and many other agencies to fill these daily program blocks.

WSVI-TV has been broadcasting four half hour programs everyday since March 15, 2020 focusing on the Covid 19 crisis and the unique challenges faced by the Caribbean community of which the Virgin Islands is part. While all American based media viewed in the Virgin Islands focuses largely on the Covid crisis in the lower 48 states, the social, economic and health issues in Latin America and the Caribbean are of particular relevance to people in the USVI. Additionally, Channel 8 airs 20 public service announcements daily from agencies such as the Caribbean Public Health Authority, the World Health Organizations, the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta and the Virgin Islands Department of health.

Additionally, WSVI has been reporting through 10 local news broadcasts daily news of the following developments.

Channel 8 news carried news of increasing reports of false positives nationally and locally for SARS-CoV-2 antigen tests. Nationally, approximately 25% of nursing homes have reported at least one false positive during screening and other health

departments have also reported identifying additional false positives. In one instance stateside, only 4 out of 64 patients who tested positive by the antigen tests could later be confirmed by more sensitive Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing.

Channel 8 news carried news of the territory's 32nd death related to COVID-19.

Channel 8 news carries news of Governor Albert Bryan Jr. weekly press conference saying that the pilot phase for COVID testing at the territory's airports began this weekend.

Channel 8 news carried news of the Department of Health's concern that researchers and news sources have published that the mortality rate for COVID-19 in the U.S. Virgin Islands could top the world in per capita pandemic deaths.

Channel 8 news carried news of the U.S. Virgin Islands is reinforcing critical public health messaging like symptom-monitoring, infection prevention and ways to avoid the spread of disease into our territory. The health department is monitoring the health trends in the Virgin Islands community on a daily basis to help identify any possible cases of COVID-19.

The 2021 Atlantic hurricane season begins early

Channel 8 had a busy start to reporting on the hurricane season. Particularly close was Hurricane Else. Although passing to our south, the storm created hazardous wind and flooding conditions across the Virgin Islands.

The 2021 Atlantic hurricane season is an ongoing Atlantic hurricane season, which is part of the annual tropical cyclone season in the Northern Hemisphere. It officially began on June 1, 2021, and will end on November 30, 2021. However, subtropical or tropical cyclogenesis is possible at any time of the year, as demonstrated most recently by the early formation of Tropical Storm Ana on May 22, making 2021 the seventh consecutive year that a storm formed before the official start of the season. The season had the most active June, tying 1886, 1909, 1936, and 1968 with three named storms forming in the month of June. Continuing the season's high activity, Hurricane Elsa surpassed 2020's Tropical Storm Edouard as the earliest-forming fifth named storm on record by five days.

Starting with this season, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) began to issue regular Tropical Weather Outlooks on May 15, two weeks earlier than it did in the past. This change was implemented in light of the fact that named systems had formed in the Atlantic Ocean prior to the official start of the season in each of the preceding six seasons.

Channel 8 broadcast hours of programming presented by the territorial emergency management system VITEMA with its director Daryl Jashen urging residents to be

prepared by taking particular steps. These programs were aired in the Channel 8 7 daily local news shows and during our special Covid coverage. Particular attention was paid to Covid related precautions that were being prepared for Virgin Islands Shelters by VITEMA

BASIC PREPAREDNESS TIPS

Know Where to Go

If you are ordered to evacuate, know the local hurricane evacuation route(s) to take and have a plan for where you can stay. Contact your local emergency management agency for more information.

Put together a Disaster Supply Kit

Your disaster supply kit should include a flashlight, batteries, cash, first aid supplies, medications, and copies of your critical information if you need to evacuate.

Take pictures of your important documentation and email them to your secured email to ensure you are able to access them, keep copies and files on a flashdrive that you can carry with you on your house or car keys.

If you are not in an area that is advised to evacuate, and you decide to stay in your home, plan for adequate supplies in case you lose power and water for several days and you are not able to leave due to flooding or blocked roads.

Pet Emergency Kits

In an emergency, your pets will be even more dependent on you for their safety and well-being. Your family's disaster plans must include your furry family members too.

Communicate

Talk with your family about what to do if a hurricane strikes. Include emergency plans for elderly and disabled family members. Discussing hurricanes ahead of time helps reduce fear, particularly for younger children. Make an emergency communication plan (visit [ready.gov Make a Plan](https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan)) and ensure all household members are aware of the plan.

WSVI-TV devoted extensive coverage the tropical weather predictions as it does every year.

Colorado State University released its 38th annual early-season forecast at the end of Q1 and its forecasters are predicting yet another above-average season in the Atlantic. That would be the sixth above-average season in a row, and that's after a historic 2020 season, which had a record 30 named storms. Twelve of those storms made landfall in the U.S. So if you remember 2020, and yes, it's easy for hurricane

seasons to blend together and we ran out of names and ended up using the Greek alphabet. That won't be the case this year as any additional storms will not use the Greek alphabet.

This is because the use of Greek alphabet names "creates a distraction from the communication of hazard and storm warnings and is potentially confusing," the WMO said in a statement.

This season, hurricanes will be named the following:

Ana
Bill
Claudette
Danny
Elsa
Fred
Grace
Henri
Ida
Julian
Kate
Larry
Mindy
Nicholas

Odette
Peter
Rose
Sam
Teresa
Victor
Wanda

WSVI TV began extensive hourly updates on the tropical weather conditions of the Caribbean in Q1 2017. These reports were carried in Spanish and English with open captions for the hearing impair and using Charts from the National Weather Service in San Juan Puerto Rico. These programs were also broadcast on WSVI-TV's Facebook page and regular updates on rip currents and tides as well as a Marine Forecast were reported.



Natural Disasters effective the Virgin Islands and its neighbors

Earthquakes Rattle the Virgin Islands

A series of earthquakes and aftershocks rattled through the Virgin Islands during Q2 raising many questions in our news programs by newsmakers and local residents about just how prepared the Virgin Islands to defend against hurricane and Tsunami destruction.

CHANNEL 8 REMAINS OPERATIONAL ON INTERNET THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD.

Channel 8 maintained contact with its viewers in the Virgin Islands and outside the territory through social media and online via its website at www.wsvi.tv.