



**The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority
Corporate Communications
NEWS RELEASE**

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**TWO WAPA EMPLOYEES ON ST. CROIX CONTRACT CORONAVIRUS;
EMPLOYEES WHO CAME IN CLOSE PROXIMITY HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED,
SCHEDULED FOR TESTING, REQUESTED TO QUARANTINE AND ASKED
TO CONTACT EPI HOTLINE;**

WORKSPACES BEING DEEP-CLEANED AND SANITIZED

In a memorandum to employees of the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority Wednesday afternoon, Executive Director Lawrence J. Kupfer confirmed that two employees in the St. Croix district have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.

Immediately upon notification of the positive results, the Authority's Human Resources Department and our Incident Command team responded and began executing all necessary precautionary measures. "At this time, all employees known to have potentially been in direct contact with the infected employees or who have worked in close proximity to the employee's workspaces have been notified, scheduled for preliminary testing, requested to quarantine, and asked to contact the Department of Health's EPI Hotline as per our established COVID-19 protocols. In addition, action has been taken to isolate and sanitize the affected workspaces," Kupfer wrote.

The two employees, one each from the electric and water systems, apparently contracted the virus through sources within the community. One employee came to an isolated workplace and did not have direct contact with other employees. The second is an employee who has been primarily on telework and had entered a WAPA facility more than a week ago. Again, out of an abundance of caution, eleven persons who work in and around the work areas of the employees or who may have been in contact with the employees having contracted the virus have been scheduled for testing.

Kupfer said as a company, we continue our vigilance in maintaining the safety of the workplace for both our employees and customers. "Until our community has flattened the COVID-19 curve, we must do our part each day to keep ourselves and our families safe."

He also offered reassurances that these confirmed cases will have no effect on WAPA's ability to provide service to the community. "Many months of planning have gone into the development of contingency plans that are designed to ensure we meet our obligations to the community by providing electric and water services during the most trying of circumstances."

"Finally, all of us at WAPA, wish our fellow employees a speedy recovery," Kupfer said.

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About WAPA: The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority is an autonomous agency of the Virgin Islands Government which produces and distributes electricity and drinking water to residential and commercial customers in the territory. WAPA was created by the Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands in 1964 through Act No. 1248. Today, WAPA generates electrical power at production plants on St. Thomas and St. Croix and distributes electrical service through smart grids to customers on St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. John, Hassel Island, and Water Island. Potable water is distributed to almost 13,000 customers through water lines and standpipes. WAPA also has the responsibility of installing and maintaining streetlights.