On August 14th members of the VI Coral Disease Advisory Committee (VI-CDAC) confirmed the first report of Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD) on the south shore of St. Croix, a release issued today has made known. Researchers and responders are working now to remove infected colonies surrounding Ruth Cay and survey the immediate area for any additional infected corals, the release said.
SCTLD is an unprecedented threat to coral reefs across the Caribbean and was first observed in the territory on the south side of St. Thomas in January of 2019, VI-CDAC said.

The disease is transmissible through water, spreads across reefs rapidly, and affects over half of all hard coral species in the Caribbean. Once affected, corals die over the course of weeks to months which removes crucial reef habitat. Scientists across Florida and the Caribbean are working to uncover the cause of this disease and continue to document its devastating impacts, according to the release.

In the last 18 months the disease has spread all around St. Thomas and St. John, and scientists have confirmed sightings in the British Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Strict dive gear decontamination protocol was put into practice as soon as the disease reached the US Virgin Islands to prevent disease spread to popular dive sites, and there had been no reports in St. Croix until now. How the disease reached St. Croix’s reefs is being investigated, but preliminary evidence suggests ballast water from inter-island shipping vessels may have been a factor, VI-CDAC said.

Once a reef is affected, it is important to act quickly. The VI-CDAC team is working to deploy specially trained Strike Team divers to identify disease and treat sick corals across St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John, according to the release.

VI-CDAC is asking all divers, snorkelers, and anyone on the water to submit reports of sick or abnormal looking corals using DPNR’s quick and easy Coral Health Report form found at www.vicoraldisease.org .

With the help of dedicated Strike Teams and volunteers, VI-CDAC aims to mitigate the impacts of this disease to local reefs and communities.
For more information and high-resolution photos contact Joseph Townsend, USVI Coral Disease Response Coordinator at joseph.townsend@dpnr.vi.gov or visit vicoraldisease.org.

Get the latest news straight to your phone with the VI Consortium app.
There’s always a better choice Close to home.

Discover the bank with the largest branch and ATM network.

Learn more

Member FDIC in USVI only.
Oral and Facial Specialist
Dr. Horace Griffith

LET US HELP YOU CLAIM YOUR CONFIDENCE!

Specializing In:

Dental Services
Sedation | All-on-4 |
Dental Extractions | Dental Implants

Cosmetic Services
Botox | Juvederm | VI Peel

Medical Services
Infections | Facial Trauma
Cleft Palate | Oral Biopsies
And More...

In Network With Most Insurance Plans
We Accept Care Credit!

VI Oral Surgery Inc.
St. Thomas: Paragon Medical Building 340-777-5950
St. Croix: Barren Spot Village Mall 340-719-3864
VISNA
VIRGIN ISLAND
STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION
ON THE FRONT LINES IN THE HARD TIMES.
VISNA EXTENDS THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO ALL FRONTLINE WORKERS AS THEY CONTINUE TO PROVIDE UNENDING AND EXCELLENT CARE TO OUR COMMUNITY DURING THIS COVID PANDEMIC.

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!
CONTACT US VIA FACEBOOK
(VISNA NURSES)
WEBSITE:
VISNA.NURSINGNETWORK.COM
EMAIL: VISNAUS@ICLOUD.COM
UTILIZATION OF HOTLINE FOR SUPPORT OF MEMBERSHIP
HOTLINE: 340-692-4627 (9AM-9PM)

SAVE THE DATE
OCTOBER 17, 2020
EDUCATION MEETING VIA ZOOM
COVID-19 Antibody Tests may determine if a person has been exposed to COVID-19.

COVID-19 Diagnostic Tests determine if a person is currently infected.

At Acute Alternative Medical Group, WE DO BOTH TESTS!!

Call or Visit Today To Schedule.

Est. Ruby (340) 772-2883  Mt. Welcome (340) 643-7313
Est. Whim (340) 772-1259
www.acutealternative.com
2020

VI LOTTERY
GRADUATE CHALLENGE

USVI HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE 2020 GRADUATES CAN PARTICIPATE

POST A 1-MINUTE VIDEO ON A SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM ANSWERING THE STATEMENT;

"IF I WERE TO WIN THE VI LOTTERY,
I WOULD IMPACT OUR COMMUNITY TO AFFECT CHANGE BY..."

THE VIDEO MUST ANSWER THE ABOVE STATEMENT AND THE PARTICIPANT MUST SHOW THEIR DIPLOMA AS PROOF OF THEM BEING A USVI RESIDENT AND A 2020 GRADUATE.

ONE H.S. GRADUATE AND ONE UVI GRADUATE WILL BE CHOSEN TO WIN $2020.00.

VISIT WWW.WINVILOTTERY.COM FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO ENTER CONTEST
Every day brings an opportunity to connect with others in your community.

8 Comments

Submit

- Disqus
- All
- Reader's Pick
- Vic Picks

Sorry, No comment are found for this news.

Read More...

Sorry, No comment are found for this news.

Read More...

Sorry, No comment are found for this news.

Read More...

Please enable JavaScript to view the comments powered by Disqus.