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# HIT and COVID-19

United States Virgin Islands

July 27th 2022

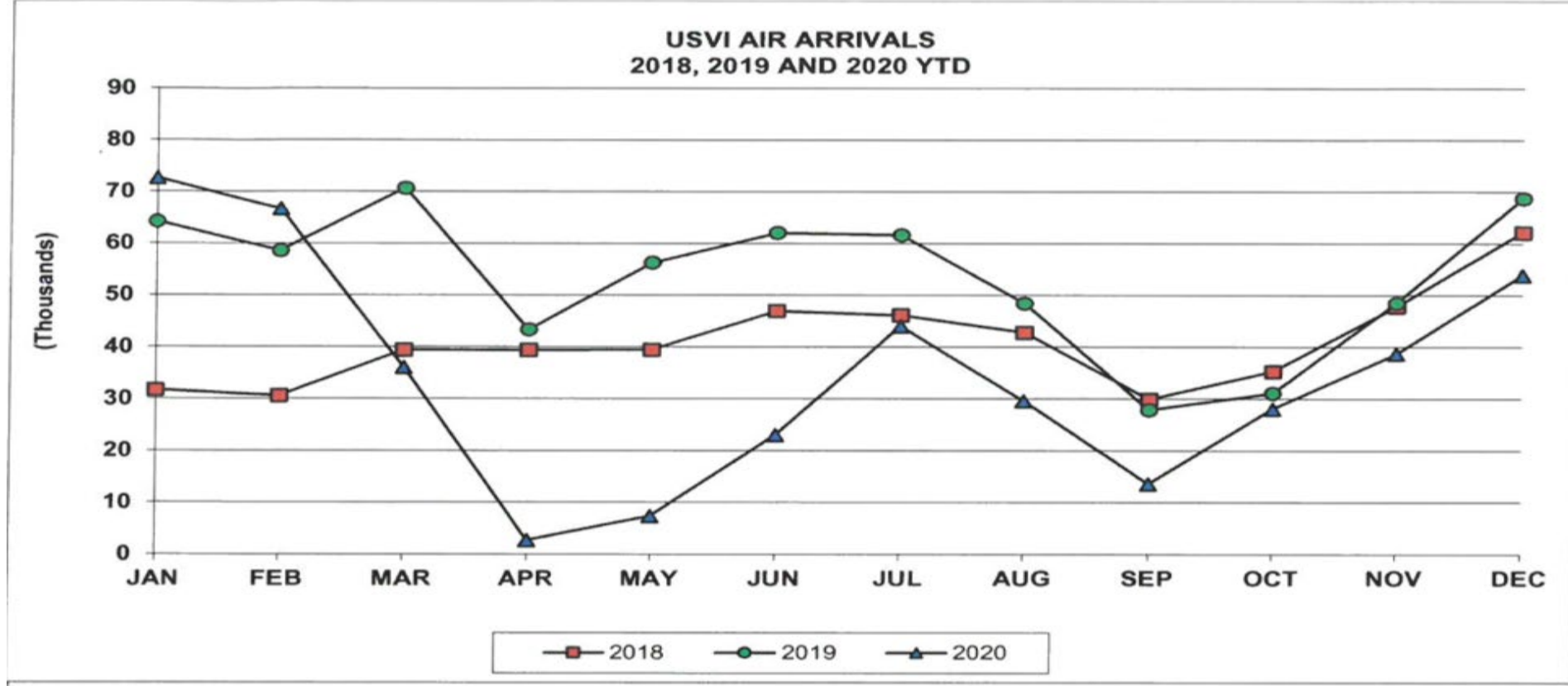
# Objective/s

1. Developing streamlined approaches for the collection, reporting, and sharing of international or domestic traveler-related data, as well as building capacity for data-sharing among public health networks.
2. Identifying, developing, and implementing innovative solutions for communicating with international or domestic travelers.
3. Providing support and guidance for public health activities at travel hubs and among travel industry stakeholders.







# Challenges

1. US Virgin Islands did not have existing infrastructure and systems previously in place.
2. The Department of Health does not operate in isolation. Mitigation authorities and stakeholders include Government House, Port Authority and Tourism.
3. Testing programs for Territories has differed from what is required stateside and more similar to international travel requirements for inbound passengers.



## U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS TOURISM STATISTICS

|  |         |   |         |
|--|---------|---|---------|
|  <b>TOTAL VISITOR ARRIVALS YTD.</b> | 856,055 |  <b>HOTEL OCCUPANCY SEPTEMBER 2021</b> | 42%     |
|  <b>AIR ARRIVALS NOVEMBER 2021</b>  | 738,000 |  <b>CRUISE ARRIVALS NOVEMBER 2021</b>  | 118,055 |





# U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS TRAVEL SCREENING PORTAL


- General Information
- Terms and Conditions
- Traveler Information
- COVID-19 Traveler Screening Tool
- Certification

WELCOME TO THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS TRAVEL SCREENING PORTAL

The USVI Travel Screening Portal submission may be completed only during the three-day window prior to commencement of travel to the Territory.

The safety of residents of and visitors to the Territory is our highest priority as we work together to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

The U.S. Virgin Islands Travel Screening Portal screens travelers prior to arrival to the Territory and is a result of the coordinated efforts of the Office of the Governor, the Department of Health, the Virgin Islands Port Authority and the Department of Tourism.



**\*\* ALERT! IMPORTANT UPDATE! \*\***

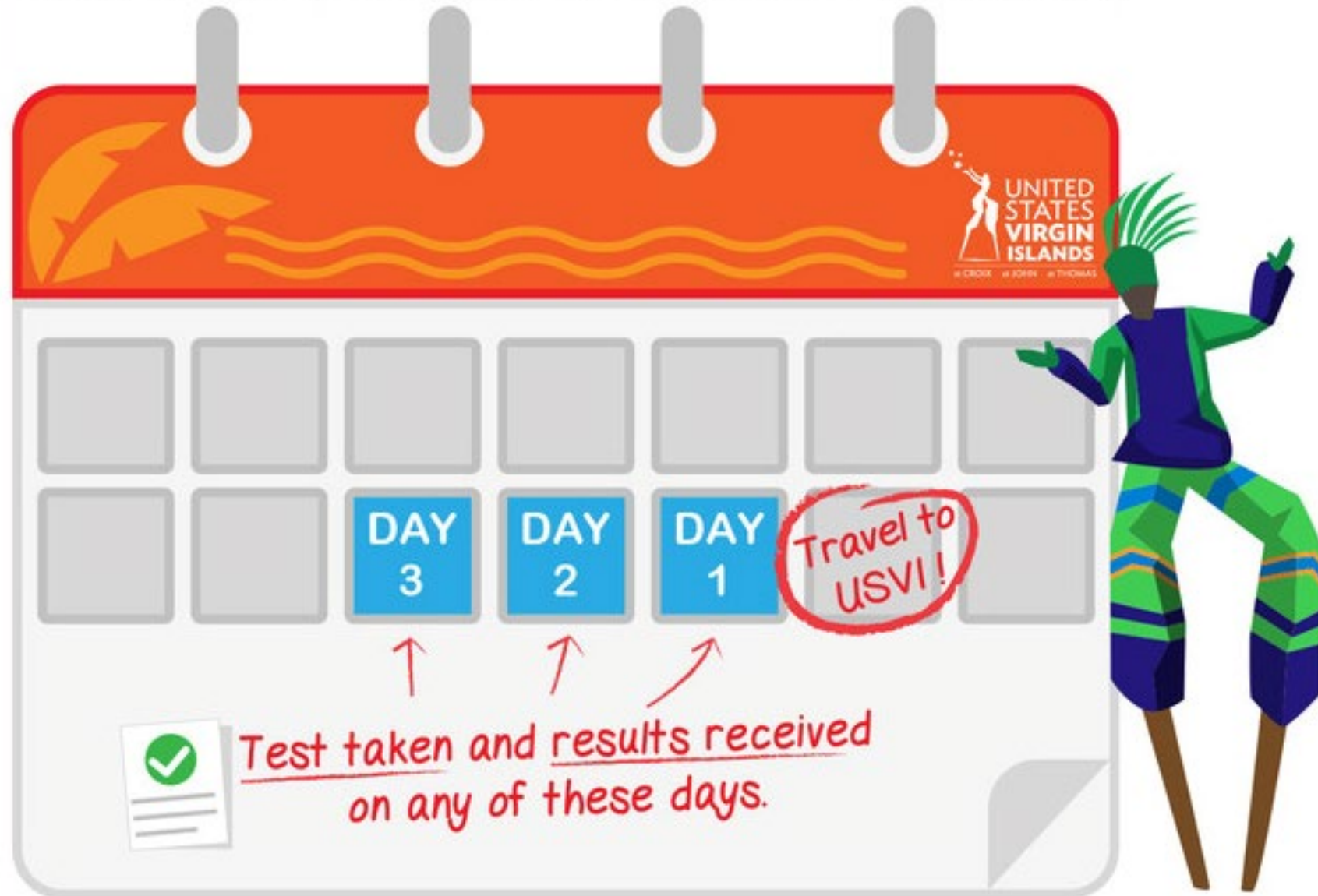
Effective January 3, 2022, the window for taking COVID-19 tests for travel to the U.S. Virgin Islands will be 3 days prior to commencement of travel to the Territory.

This change applies to vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals, including those who were vaccinated in the USVI.



# COVID-19 TESTING

U.S. Arrivals (Mainland USA and U.S. Territories)





# Welcome to the U.S. Virgin Islands Covid-19 Gateway

## Sign-Up for a Vaccine

The U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Health supports free Covid-19 vaccinations.

- St. Croix
- St. Thomas
- St. John

For children ages 5-11, please schedule at Maternal and Child Health (MCH)

- St. Croix
- St. Thomas
- St. John

## Sign-Up for Pop-Up Testing

The U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Health supports community testing.  
For December 31, 2021 - January 7, 2022 - register and see times and locations below.

- St. Croix
- St. Thomas
- St. John

## Sign-Up for a Drive-Thru Test (Symptomatic and Close Contacts)

The U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Health supports free Covid-19 testing if you are experiencing symptoms.

- St. Croix
- St. Thomas
- St. John



Get Your Digital Vax Record





# PolarisKey

Get Your Pass >

## Your secure digital vax pass.

Safely carry your COVID-19 vaccination record. Anyone who has received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose can request a PolarisKey.

Learn More: [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Are you a local business,  
event planner, or travel  
organization?

JOIN THE NETWORK

Request access to securely check vaccination  
status of your patrons.

PolarisKey is a voluntary digital health initiative to support safe reopening for events and spaces. Founded on a consent culture, you can securely share your vaccination status for travel or event spaces.



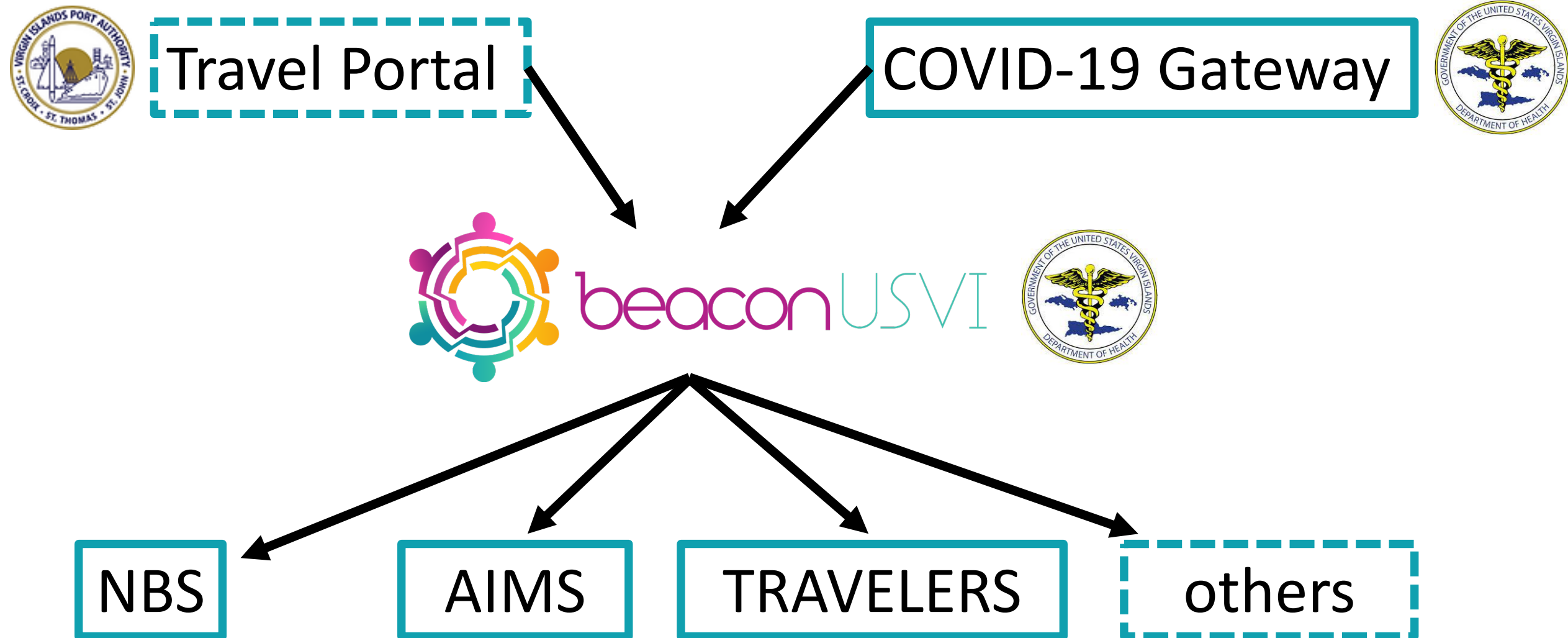
PolarisKey

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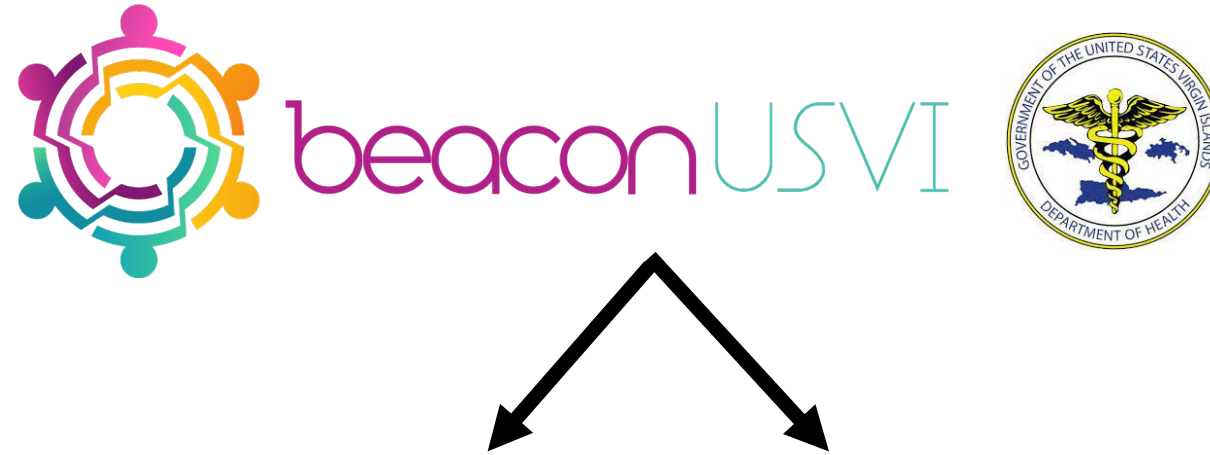
USVI Department of Health



**Activity 1. Develop standard approach for the collection, reporting, and sharing of international traveler-related data with CDC and among relevant public health networks.**



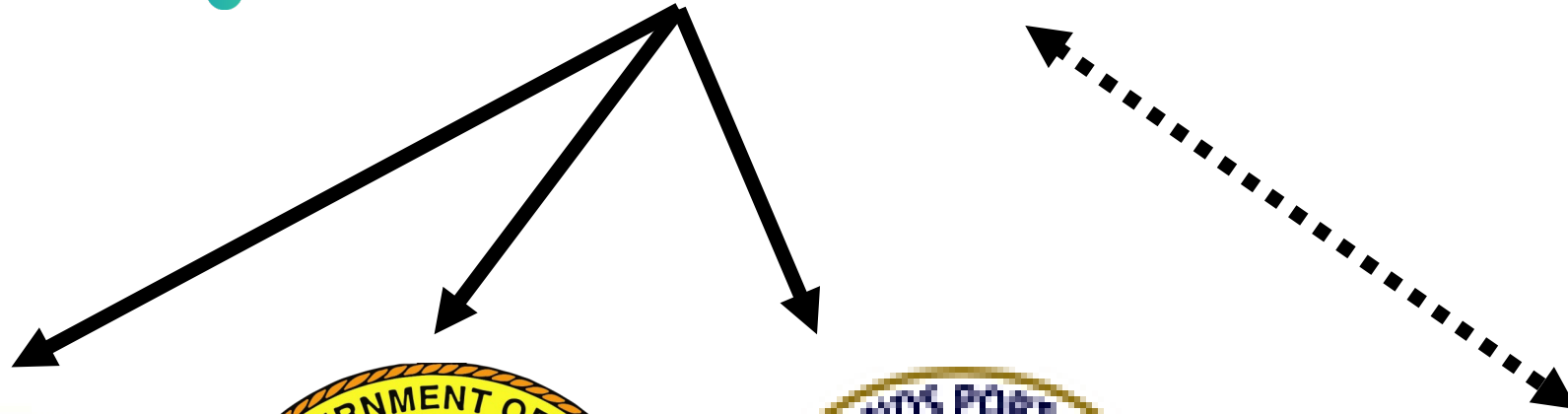
## Activity 2. Identify, develop, and apply innovative solutions for communicating with international travelers



Activity 3. Provide guidance for and oversight of public health activities at airports, other ports of entry, and other travel hubs and among travel industry stakeholders.



beaconUSVI





## LESSONS LEARNED

1. Flexibility in collection and reporting tools. One size does not fit all.
2. Focus on stakeholders and providing infrastructure and tools. Limited stakeholder capacity. Developed on a case-to-case basis. Some providers use DOH provided mobile and web apps. Some providers fully integrated. Some APIs Some CSV.



# Thank you!

Questions email [esther.ellis@doh.vi.gov](mailto:esther.ellis@doh.vi.gov) or call 340-626-1654 (cell)