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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 18, 2019

HOW DO I...REGISTER WITH NHI?

Registration is mandatory for all legal residents in BVI

Are you registered yet? If you are, then you are one of the 36,649 beneficiaries registered with the National Health Insurance (NHI) programme.

If you haven't registered yet, it is time to do so. To register, complete the registration forms online at www.vinhi.vg or fill out a form manually at the NHI office at the Joshua Smith Building in Road Town, Tortola, or the Social Security Office in The Valley, Virgin Gorda.

The registration form must be submitted with proof of status in the Territory. Accepted documents include a birth certificate, valid passport, proof of immigration status, Belonger's or residence certificate or card, valid work permit, or in the event of a name change: a marriage certificate, deed pool or affidavit in support of any fact.

Upon submission and subsequent approval of your NHI registration, you will be given your NHI Smart Card. The card includes your photograph, which will be taken at the NHI office. Cards issued to children under five (5) years of age do not feature a photograph.

Did you know that once you are a legal resident of the Virgin Islands, you are required by law to register with NHI? This is in accordance with the Social Security (National Health Insurance) Regulations, 2015.

Did you know that persons can be penalized for not registering for NHI? The regulations indicate that a resident who does not register on time "commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, and if the offence is a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding one hundred dollars for every day or part of a day during which the offence has continued".

In addition to the fine, persons can be penalized for a period of three months.

"This means they won't have access to health care services or benefits under the NHI system until three months from the date of the application," said Mr. Roy Barry, Deputy Director of Social Security Board, with responsibility to National Health Insurance.

“Also, new residents must register within one month of their arrival, or they too will be penalized for late registration. Therefore, we encourage persons to come in and register soonest so that they can get access to affordable healthcare if a situation arises,” cautioned Mr. Barry.

For more information, persons can contact the NHI main office via telephone 852-7860 or email info@vinhi.vg.

The National Health Insurance of the Virgin Islands has a mandate to provide affordable access to healthcare services for all legal residents in the Territory, in line with Government’s vision, ‘*Towards a Healthier Virgin Islands*’.

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NOTES TO EDITOR(S): Photograph and flier are attached.

Caption: Mr. Roy Barry, Deputy Director of the Social Security Board with responsibility for National Health Insurance

Flier Design: April Glasgow

The “NHI, How do I?” series is part of a campaign to ensure beneficiaries are well equipped with the information needed to access healthcare services.