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REGISTER WITH NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE TODAY

Some Virgin Islands residents ‘think’ they are, but are still not registered with NHI

Road Town, Tortola, November 29, 2017– All legal residents of the Virgin Islands are being asked to check their registration status with the Virgin Islands National Health Insurance (NHI) to ensure there is medical coverage when needed.

Deputy Director of the BVI Social Security Board with responsibility to NHI, Mr. Roy Barry, said there have been recent situations that have caused him to renew his call for registrations.

He said, “Some residents are denied coverage when seeking medical care and when they come in to the office to request cards, they learn that they have never been registered with NHI. Some persons either don’t know it is a legal requirement for all legal residents, or some thought they were already registered.”

When asked how some persons could not know they are not registered, Mr. Barry explained, “During the registration drive, some persons were under the impression that if they are married, having a registered spouse means that they too are registered. This is not the case. However, a spouse can make a declaration that they will pay their unemployed spouse’s contributions.”

Contributions for an unemployed spouse are made through the beneficiary’s employer. Voluntary persons may not register an unemployed spouse under themselves.

Mr. Barry continued, “Some employed persons think their employer has already registered them, but when the employee goes to a doctor, they find out they are still not registered,” adding, “Once we know of such instances, NHI will then contact the employer to facilitate the registration of said employee.”

To register, legal residents can apply by going into the NHI office at the Joshua Smith/ Social Security Building. Application forms must be accompanied by one or more of the following: birth certificate (for newborns only), believer’s card, passport, work permit or proof of immigration status.

Persons will be asked to complete, and submit an application form based on their eligibility. A member of the NHI team will assist persons with any questions they have about their eligibility and contributions.

Registration forms can be downloaded online from www.vinhi.vg (direct link - <https://www.vinhi.vg/nhi-forms/>).

For more information, residents can contact the VI NHI office via telephone (284) 852-7860 or email info@vinhi.vg.

The National Health Insurance (NHI) of the Virgin Islands is designed to provide all legal residents of the Virgin Islands with affordable access to the healthcare services they need.

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Notes to Editor(s): Photograph and audio clips are attached.

Photo: Mr. Roy Barry

Audio Clips: Mr. Roy Barry