GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

PRESS RELEASE

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Art and Poetry Competitions to Promote Caribbean Mosquito Awareness Week

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Competition for Caribbean Mosquito Awareness Week

Art competition
(Grades 5-8 and 9-12)

Focus on the **Aedes Aegypti mosquito** which is of public health importance, the stages of its life cycle and depict source reduction. **Work must be original. Be creative!**

Place first and last name, grade, school's name, parent/guardian name and telephone contact at the back of the art work

- **A4 (8.5 x 11 inches)**
- **Sketch, pastel, water colour, pencil crayons, acrylic or mixed mediums**

Prizes

1st place

Comprehensive art kit and sketch pad

As the Virgin Islands prepares to observe Caribbean Mosquito Awareness Week 2026 from May 11–15, the Environmental Health Division (EHD) is inviting students across the Territory to take part in a Poetry and Art Competition aimed at raising awareness and inspiring action to reduce mosquito breeding.

Observed under the theme *"Stop Disease Transmission, Start Source Reduction Clean Up Today, Keep Mosquitoes Away,"* this year's campaign places a strong focus on empowering communities, especially young people to understand the risks of mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue, chikungunya and Zika, and the simple steps that can prevent them.

"This is not just a competition, it is an opportunity for our students to use their voices and creativity to help protect their families and communities," Acting Chief Environmental Health Officer Ms. Henrietta Alexander said.

Students ages 8–11 are invited to participate in a Poetry Competition, where they will explore the *Aedes aegypti mosquito*, the diseases it spreads, and ways to reduce breeding sites through thoughtful and creative expression.

Students in Grades 5–8 and 9–12 can enter the Art Competition, using a variety of mediums to illustrate the mosquito's life cycle and highlight the importance of eliminating standing water and practicing source reduction.

Participants are encouraged to be original, creative, and impactful in delivering messages that support healthier communities.

Winners in both categories will receive exciting prizes, including gift certificates, art supplies, and creative experiences, with top entries also being featured publicly.

Entries must be submitted by May 15, 2026 and can be emailed to ehd@gov.vg or hand delivered to the Environmental Health Division, 1st Floor, Social Development Building across from the Red Cross.

Students must ensure all required details including name, grade, school, and parent/guardian contact information is included with their submission.

The Ministry of Health and Social Development remains committed to protecting and promoting the health and social well-being of the people of the Virgin Islands through effective policies, sustainable programmes, and strategic partnerships that support a safe, healthy, and resilient society.

For Additional Information Contact:

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