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On 3/18/2020 I sent my wife to Vermont to stay with her brother. I changed the date on our Christmas trip tickets to do so, but left the return date the same day in December. I want her to stay away till then.

She is fighting bronchitis which came right on the heels of another virus she had which has caused laryngitis. She's been sick for almost 1 ½ months. When she last went to the doctor a week before she left, when the USVI had only 1 confirmed case of COVID-19 the doctor had told her that it was just a matter of time till the virus was fully established here.

We currently have 7 ventilators in the territory, and our hospitals, we only have 2, have not recovered from the effects of the back to back category 5 hurricanes of 2017. My island of St. John has no hospital at all.

I had been worried about her contracting the virus on top of her current illnesses, the fact that she is over 50, overweight, and has high-blood pressure currently under control. These are all high risk factors for her. I had broached the idea of her traveling to VT, but she refused to entertain the idea. She told the doctor of what I had used as a reason: better medical care when she caught it. She told the doctor who said it was merely a question of where she wanted to be sick, because she would be sick. At this time we did not know she had bronchitis, and no tests could have been performed here. The doctor gave her a Zpack, an inhaler and sent her home.

Sunday night I was texting my brother and mother in a group chat and told them my worries, my brother said do it now, before anything gets worse. I started to text her brother and he agreed I could and should send her as he and his wife were working from home and had been since the first case in Vermont. Talking to my wife she refused to go, then said she would if she were not better by Friday, when I told her brother we both agreed that that was not soon enough and she agreed to Wednesday.

She went up wearing a face mask our doctor gave her, asking us not to reveal where the mask came from. I asked her to put it on before she boarded the ferry from the island, and she wore it all the way to her brothers.

Friday she was feeling much worse and was having difficulty breathing so she went to the nearby clinic where it was diagnosed as bronchitis. She was prescribed medication and has felt better since.

She wants to come home after doing 2 weeks of quarantine with her brother and his wife. I will not set a firm date.

Meanwhile, I have 2 jobs one is at the only auto parts store on the island, we service everything from generators to boats, cars, motorcycles, heavy machinery, diesel semi trucks and solar power systems. After the storms we were considered a vital service and had the only working internet connection for 1 month. We are a small crowded store and are in close proximity to

customers who operate charter boats, taxi busses and are food service workers, bartenders as the majority of our business.

We have no masks. My fellow counter person and I wash our hands after customer interactions clear the store. Our hand sanitizer at our counter is 151 proof rum mixed with old spice aftershave so my alcoholic co-worker isn't tempted to drink it.

My second job is out at a concession in the Trunk Bay beach section of our national park. I work for friends 2 days a week so they get a day or 2 off. I rent beach chairs and snorkel equipment to tourists from across the world.

I have a barrel of bleach and soapy water where I wash snorkeling equipment every morning, and when the equipment is returned. I wash my hands in there after clearing all customers from the counter.

I fully expect to get the virus. I woke up with a slight occasional cough on Thursday and was still occasionally coughing Friday. I've been taking my temperature every day in the morning, when I get home from work and before I go to bed.

Today was supposed to be my last day at the beach, they are shutting down due to the drop in tourism. I woke up last night and had a very loose bowel movement, very out of the ordinary for me. When I got up for work I was a little light headed and chalked it up to lack of hydration. When I took my temperature it was elevated 1.5 degrees from where it had been all week.

I called out sick from my job. I can feel something heavy in my chest, I have a headache and my fever is hovering around 100. I think I might have the virus but am going to wait until tomorrow to contact anyone about it. My fever is not high enough for current testing criteria and I have not had any knowledgeable contact with anyone infected, so testing for COVID-19 is unlikely to happen.

I have no insurance and use the VA. So I'll contact them first then the island hotline. I haven't told my wife I skipped out on work or that I feel sick. I know she'll want me to come up, and I can't do that in good conscience. I don't want to infect anyone else, especially my wife or her family.

I'm still worried about her, and worried about myself. I don't want the virus, but I know it's not bronchitis. I'll have to tell her tonight, and I don't want to.