



DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INYUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

18 March 2020

Dear staff and students

Covid-19 update

The University is aware of the concerns related to the Covid-19 outbreak in our country. We realise that all members of the University community are worried about the impact of this outbreak, not just for ourselves but for our loved ones and for the entire nation.

As a result, the University has published a series of protocols that pertain to staff leave (circulated via DUT PinBoard today) and students living in residences (circulated via DUT4life today). These protocols were also published on our Covid-19 webpage on the DUT website. On Thursday, our International Education & Partnerships Department will publish a protocol document that speaks to international travel and guests.

Earlier this week, DUT confirmed, after a joint sitting of the Executive Management Committee and the Executive Committee of Senate, that there will be an extended recess period, which commenced on Tuesday, 17 March 2020. The second term is expected to resume on Tuesday, 14 April 2020. If this changes, we will advise all stakeholders via the official DUT communication platforms.

The University has not shutdown - and whilst the academic programme has paused due to the extended recess period, a decision was made that DUT will remain functional and services must be maintained. There will be no unauthorised closures by any department, without first, liaising with their Sector Executive. We realise that there is panic amongst some in the University community but to date, we have not received any confirmed cases of Covid-19 amongst our staff and student population. As a result, the University will not tolerate unauthorised decisions by any department, which acts against the EMC/Senex decisions, by posting notices turning people away or refusing to serve them. These actions violate the EMC and Senex decisions that were communicated to all staff and students on Monday.

- The University is aware that some staff members and students have gone for Covid-19 testing, since they were displaying specific symptoms. We urge people not to jump to conclusions and rather wait for the formal announcements.

Whilst we cannot force staff and students to disclose their Covid-19 status, we hope that those who were tested, consider informing our Health Clinics or their Head of Department, of their Covid-19 test results. In the event of a positive test result, the University will then have to respond appropriately.

In the interim, we ask that you please remain calm and not fall victim to any panic or hysteria.

We will update you on further developments.

Sincerely

DUT Management Team

**WE REMIND ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF TO ONLY ACCESS OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS VIA
THE DUT PINBOARD EMAIL SYSTEM (STAFF), DUT4LIFE EMAIL ACCOUNT (STUDENTS)
AND THE STAFF AND STUDENT PORTALS.**



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