

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

13 March 2020

Dear staff and students

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Earlier today, the Minister of Health Dr Zweli Mkhize announced that South Africa currently has 24 confirmed cases of Coronavirus (Covid-19). As a nation, we are all concerned about the global spread of the virus and we need to work together to limit the infection rate of Covid-19 in South Africa.

The University has formed a task team to deal with the risks, response and impact of Covid-19 at DUT. The Task Team comprises representatives from both Durban and Midlands campuses and is Chaired by Prof CC Jinabhai.

The team will be advising Management to approve several protocols related to staff and student travel, infection control, mass gatherings on campus, DUT graduation events, tests and examinations, incident management, security and access control. We will write to you next week with an update on all of these recommendations.

In the interim, we urge you to please practice the recommended preventative measures:

- No handshakes.
- Practice frequent hand-washing with soap or use an alcohol based hand sanitizer.
- Cover coughs, sneezes and yawns with disposable tissues or clothing and use your forearm to cover your mouth.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with your hands.
- Avoid close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections.
- Try to clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces regularly.

If you are feeling unwell and present with any of the symptoms related to Covid-19, please seek medical attention. Just to remind you, the symptoms are:

1. Respiratory symptoms
2. High Fever
3. Cough
4. Shortness of breath and breathing difficulties.
5. Severe cases of the infection can cause pneumonia
6. Severe acute respiratory syndrome
7. Kidney failure

If you present with any of the symptoms, call the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), 24-hour toll-free phone line on **0800 029 999** and seek medical attention.

If you are concerned that you have contracted the coronavirus, please go for testing immediately. If you suspect a colleague, student or visitor is exhibiting any of the symptoms, please advise them to go for testing or advise them to call the **NICD Hotline Number 0800 029 999**.

We remind you to also be cautious about spreading fake news and misinformation. You should always verify the sources of the news and information that you are receiving, before circulating it to your family, friends and colleagues.

DUT
DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INYUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE

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.