

**COMMUNIQUÉ FROM DUT COVID-19 RESPONSE TASK TEAM**

22 June 2020

Dear staff and students

The DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team wishes to thank all colleagues and students who have been taking the relevant precautions and following the published guidelines, as we all strive to reduce the spread and impact of COVID-19 in South Africa.

The coronavirus is continuing to infect thousands of people, on a daily basis, in our country. Sadly, an increasing number of people are also passing on due to COVID-19. We must remain focused on protecting and prioritizing our health and simultaneously, the health and safety of our University community. Currently, 213 countries in the world are dealing with COVID-19. South Africa is number 19 on the list for the most infections with 97302 as of yesterday. Tragically, 1930 people have passed on due to COVID-19. Thankfully, 51608 people have recovered.

Last week, the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Dr B.E Nzimande, announced that under Lockdown Level 3, smoking is banned at all South African universities. As a result, all staff and students who smoke, are hereby requested to adhere to the Minister's announcement and to refrain from smoking whilst you are on campus and/or in residence. Smokers who violate this ruling could be subject to criminal prosecution and/or disciplinary action.

We would like to highlight some important areas that we must enforce and follow. Please find below information related to physical distancing, face masks and screening.

**PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL DISTANCING****Q: What is social distancing?**

**A:** Social distancing is the practice of purposefully reducing close contact between people. According to the Centre for Disease Control, social distancing means:

- Remaining out of "group settings" as much as possible.

- Avoiding mass gatherings.
- Maintaining a minimum distance of 6 feet (2 metres) from other people.

**Q: Why is social distancing important?**

**A:** Social distancing is crucial for preventing the spread of contagious illnesses such as COVID-19 (coronavirus). COVID-19 can spread through coughing, sneezing and close contact. By minimizing the amount of close contact that you have with others, you will reduce your chances of catching the virus and spreading it to your loved ones and within our University community.

**Q: How can I practice social distancing in the workplace?**

**A:** Keeping 6 feet of distance between yourself and others is key. It is also important to practice other preventative measures such as wearing a face mask, washing your hands regularly, avoid touching your face, cough into your elbow and staying at home if you feel sick. Always use your face mask whenever you leave your place of residence and remember, the use of a face mask is compulsory whilst you are on campus or in residence at DUT.



**HOW TO USE A FACE MASK**

**How to Put the Mask On**

1. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Dry your hands with a clean paper towel and throw the paper towel away.
2. Check the mask for any defects such as a tear. Throw away any that are defective.

3. Make sure that the exterior side of the mask is facing out, away from your face.
4. Place the mask on your face with the exterior side facing out and the top of the mask securely positioned to cover your nose.
5. If the mask has ear loops, put one loop around each ear.
6. If the mask has ties, pick up the mask by the ties and tie the upper ties behind your head with a bow.
7. If you are using a mask with a nasal band: once that mask is in place, use your index finger and thumb to pinch the bendable top edge of the mask around the bridge of your nose.
8. If the mask has a lower tie, then once the mask is fitted to the bridge of your nose, tie the lower ties behind your head with a bow.
9. Make sure the mask is completely secure. Make sure it covers your nose and mouth so that the bottom edge is under your chin.
10. Wash your hands.



#### How to wear your mask.



Wear your mask secure over your mouth and nose.



Secure your mask behind both of your ears.

### Removing the Mask

1. Wash your hands before removing your mask.
2. Do not touch the inside of the mask (the part over nose and mouth). It may be contaminated from your breathing, coughing or sneezing.

- Untie or remove the ear loops and remove the mask by the straps.
- If you are using a disposable mask, throw the mask in the trash after use. Please do not re-use disposable, single-use masks.
- Wash your hands after handling your face mask.

**Please Note:** If you are using a reusable cloth face mask, at the end of the day, take the mask off using the straps (do not touch the front of the mask). Wash the face mask with hot water and washing detergent/soap, then dry the mask and iron it before using it again. This will help sanitise the face mask for re-use. Your cloth face mask must be washed and ironed after each use.

### How NOT to wear your mask

- Do not wear your mask under your mouth.
- Do not pull your mask under your chin, even to drink.
- Do not wear your mask on your elbow.
- Do not hang your mask from one ear.



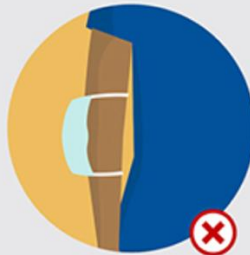
#### How NOT to wear your mask.



Do not wear your mask under your mouth.



Do not pull your mask under chin, even to drink.



Do not wear your mask on your elbow.



Do not hang your mask from one ear.

Please remember that you must wear your face mask at all times whilst you are on campus or in public areas in residence.  
Please wear your face mask before you arrive on campus.

## HealthCheck SCREENING FORM

All staff and students are reminded to complete the HealthCheck screening form **before** arriving on campus. The HealthCheck screening procedure must be used each day, before you arrive on campus.

Please use this link to access the **HealthCheck** online screening form:

<https://healthcheck.higherhealth.ac.za/>

For more information on the HealthCheck screening requirements, please read the statement that was circulated to you on 28 May 2020:

<https://www.dut.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/HealthCheck-Communique-Thursday-28-May-2020.pdf>

If you do not use the HealthCheck screening form before you arrive on campus, please note that you will be subject to a manual screening at the entry gate. Please expect delays, as the manual screening takes time. We urge you to be patient, as our screening staff must follow the protocols before you are given access to enter the campus. As a result, we strongly advise you to use the HealthCheck online screening form daily, before you arrive on campus.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTERING DUT CAMPUS

All staff and students must scan their staff/student cards at all the entrances, when entering the campus. If scanning is unavailable, you will need to complete the Registers for Contact Tracing. Your temperature will also be checked. You will then show a **CURRENT** HealthCheck **Green** clearance certificate, which you will get when you complete the online screening, form. Please remember that you must have the relevant permit to enter University property. Entry will be denied to any person who fails to comply with the screening and entry procedure.

Please stay safe and take the necessary precautions to protect yourself against COVID-19.

Sincerely,

DUT COVID-19 RESPONSE TASK TEAM