

## UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

21 July 2020

### Communication from the DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team

Dear staff and students

Please be advised that the South African Department of Health has reduced the COVID-19 isolation/quarantine period from 14 days to 10 days. This means that if you become ill, you will need to stay at home or in an isolation facility for 10 days and avoid contact with other people. It also means a faster return to work or studies.

We are also pleased to confirm that the Card Production Office has now reopened, after being closed for two weeks. The area has been thoroughly disinfected and sanitised, so it is safe to return to the office for staff and student cards.

The Task Team wants to raise three serious concern are three issues:

- Compliance with the COVID-19 guidelines;
- The spreading of rumours; and
- Failure to disclose symptoms.

### **COVID-19 Guideline Violations**

DUT has developed a set of guidelines to guide staff and students on what to do during the COVID-19 pandemic to help reduce the spread of the illness. These guidelines are freely available on the DUT website and have been conveyed via a number of channels. <https://www.dut.ac.za/coronavirus/>

It is noted with serious concern that a number of students and some staff members are either not wearing masks on campus, or wearing them incorrectly. It is compulsory to have your mask on your face at all times whilst you are on campus.

The only exception is when you are eating or drinking, after which you should immediately put your mask back on. Please make sure to wear your mask correctly: it should cover both your mouth and your nose.

A further guideline that is being broken by some is that of social distancing. Please maintain a minimal distance of at least 1.5 metres from other people at all times. If you are attending a lecture, please do not remain on campus afterwards. Please avoid gathering in groups.

These guidelines are in place to keep all staff and students safer from COVID-19. Please observe these measures, as the infection rate in KwaZulu-Natal and in South Africa continues to climb at alarming rates.

### **Rumour-mongering**

Please be advised that spreading false information about another person and their COVID-19 status is a criminal offence, punishable under South African law. It is also a contravention of DUT policy.

### **Failing to disclose symptoms**

Please note that failing to disclose symptoms of illness on the HealthCheck screening site, to your lecturer, to your Residence Advisor or to your supervisor, is a serious offence. Even one person entering DUT premises who fails to alert officials to their symptoms could cause a serious outbreak of illness. Please always disclose all of your symptoms, should you have any.

If you have any COVID-19 related queries, please consult your Faculty Response Team or email:

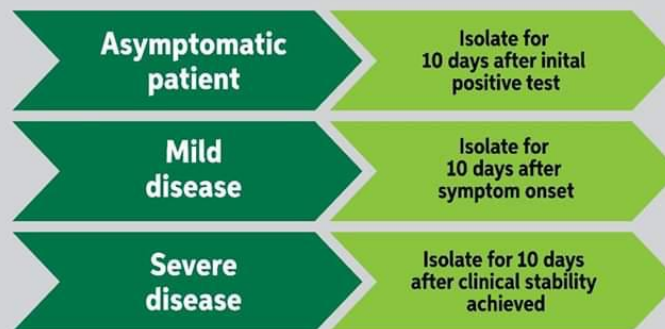
[covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za](mailto:covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za).

Sincerely

DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team

## #10DaysIsolation

The isolation period should be reduced from 14 days to 10 days on condition that the patient does not have a fever and their symptoms have begun to improve.



## #10DaysIsolation

**You don't need to test after isolation. Why?**



The virus may remain detectable over weeks or even months, but a detectable virus does not equate to an infectious virus, and thus PCR is not the recommended modality to establish infectivity.