



DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INYUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

STATEMENT FROM THE DUT COVID-19 RESPONSE TASK TEAM

07 July 2020

Dear staff and students

NEW CONFIRMED CASES OF COVID-19

The COVID-19 Response Task Team has received confirmation that we now have a total of nine cases of coronavirus on campus. The latest two confirmed COVID-19 cases includes a student and a staff member, who are both based in Durban. Contact tracing has commenced for both cases, via the relevant Heads of Department - and the affected areas on campus will be sanitized, in keeping with the response protocols.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of our colleagues and students who have tested positive for COVID-19. We wish them a safe return to good health.

Due to the soaring infection rates in our country and the increase in positive cases on campus, the Task Team has established a dedicated email address for all COVID-19 related enquiries. You can email your questions and comments to: covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za.

A COVID-19 Hotline is now also in place and will be staffed during office hours. The telephone number is: **0313733760**.

After hours, staff and students may contact **0600 123 456** (via What's App); or the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) Hotline on **0800 029 999**; or telephone the National COVID-19 Call Centre on **012 337 1997**.

As of last night, South Africa had reported a total of 205 721 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Sadly, 3 310 people have now passed on and we extend our deepest condolences to the family and friends of those who have tragically lost

their lives. On a positive note, 100 236 people have recovered. South Africa was 15th out of 213 countries for total infections yesterday and worryingly, our country was 4th on the list for new daily infections, behind the USA, India and Brazil.

The DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team will like to highlight:

1. Your **consistent compliance** with the COVID-19 prevention measures – we are receiving a number of reports that some students and some staff members are NOT following guidelines. Please, for the benefit of the entire University community, we urge you to abide by the guidelines at all times.
2. We request the student community to please **leave the campus after** their academic contact sessions and to return to their places of residence.
3. All staff and students **MUST** ensure that their **contact details**, which includes; cell phone number, email address and residential address - are updated on the iEnabler system. This is critical for contact tracing and notifications around anyone who may test positive.

The University reminds all staff and students to please follow the published guidelines to limit the spread of COVID-19. Protect yourself and others from infection, by washing your hands regularly with soap and water or by using an alcohol (minimum 70%) based hand sanitiser frequently.

It is imperative that you use a face mask whenever you leave your place of residence. We remind all staff, students and visitors that the use of a **face mask is compulsory**, at all times, whenever you are on campus or in residence.

If you do not have a face mask, you will not be granted access to University property.

Please follow the social and physical distancing rules, which means that you should maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet from the next person.

Please avoid gathering in groups.

We strongly advise that you do not shake hands with people and refrain from hugging one another. This is part of the physical distancing guidelines.

Importantly, all staff and students must use the **HealthCheck** online screening form **before** you arrive on campus. Please use this link to access the HealthCheck online form: <https://healthcheck.higherhealth.ac.za/>

If you do not use the HealthCheck online form, you will need to undergo manual screening at the entry gate on campus. All staff, students and visitors must be screened before entering campus.

The manual screening process does take time, so please expect delays at the gate, if you do decide to not use the HealthCheck online screening form.

The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or vapor/discharge from the nose/mouth when an infected person coughs or sneezes, so it's important that you also practice respiratory etiquette (for example, by coughing and sneezing into a flexed elbow, even if you have your mask on). If you are using a tissue, please safely dispose of used tissues in the bin. Then wash your hands with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser.

The World Health Organisation has advised the following COVID-19 symptoms:

Most common symptoms:

- fever
- dry cough
- tiredness

Less common symptoms:

- aches and pains
- sore throat
- diarrhoea
- conjunctivitis
- headache
- loss of taste or smell
- a rash on skin, or discolouration of fingers or toes

Serious symptoms:

- difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- chest pain or pressure
- loss of speech or movement

Please seek immediate medical attention if you have serious symptoms. Always call before visiting your doctor or health facility.



On average, it takes five to six days from when someone is infected with the virus for symptoms to show. However, it can also take up to 14 days.

We all need to work together to help combat the spread of the coronavirus. The situation in our country remains extremely serious, with thousands of new COVID-19 infections daily. All staff and students have a shared responsibility to protect the health and safety of the entire University community.

Please stay safe during these challenging times.

Sincerely

DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team



DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INYUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE