

STATEMENT FROM THE DUT COVID-19 RESPONSE TASK TEAM

02 July 2020

Dear staff and students

INCREASE IN CONFIRMED CASES OF COVID-19

Following our last update to you on Monday morning, we regret to announce that a further three staff members and two students have since tested positive for COVID-19. This now brings the total number of confirmed cases at DUT to seven.

The University, via the relevant Heads of Department, have conducted contact tracing to alert people who were in contact with those who have tested positive for COVID-19. The affected physical spaces will be thoroughly sanitized.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have tested positive. We wish them a safe return to good health.

The reality is that the coronavirus infection rate in our country is continuing to increase rapidly and we all need to be unified in our fight against the disease. As of last night, total infections in South Africa numbered 159 333. We had 8124 new cases that were confirmed yesterday, which was South Africa's biggest, single-day increase. We had the fourth largest daily increase in infections yesterday, when compared to 213 countries worldwide. Sadly, 2749 people have passed on and we extend our deepest condolences to their family and friends. On a positive note, 76 025 people have successfully recovered.

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 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.

Finally, last week we issued a statement to you that included information on the correct use of a face mask. If you have not read the announcement, please familiarize yourself with it:

[Communique-COVID-19-Task-Team-22062020](#)

All of the relevant coronavirus information is available on the COVID-19 webpage on the DUT website. This page has been active since March 2020:

<https://www.dut.ac.za/coronavirus/>

Please stay safe during these challenging times.

Sincerely

DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team



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