

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

28 August 2020

Dear staff and students

COVID-19 UPDATE

The country's recovery rate currently stands at 86%, however, the Coronavirus is still spreading amongst individuals, families, relatives, friends and in communities. Currently, KwaZulu-Natal has the second highest number of people infected with COVID-19, with a total of 11585.

Although the national lockdown level has eased to Level 2 with most economic activities open and 66% of the student population and staff expected to return to the university, we urge you to please remain vigilant and to follow the public health guidelines to protect you and your family, friends and colleagues. Please wear a mask, wash your hands regularly using soap and water, use a 70% alcohol-based hand sanitiser, practice physical and social distancing, do not gather in groups and if you are ill, please stay at home in isolation and seek immediate medical advice.

The DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team is pleased to announce that more recoveries have been reported. Here are the latest COVID-19 statistics for DUT:

Total number of cases:	98
Total number of staff (positive):	47
Total number of students (positive)	51
Total number of recoveries:	62 (30 students and 32 staff)
Total number of deaths:	2 (1 student and 1 staff)
Number of new cases this week:	12
Number of new cases (staff):	3
Number of new cases (students):	9
Location of new cases: DBN	7
Location of new cases: PMB	5
Has contact tracing commenced for new cases:	Yes
Has disinfection of areas commenced for new cases:	Yes

We will continue to pray for our staff and students who are fighting COVID-19 and we eagerly await their safe and successful return to good health. Various DUT departments, such as the Employee Wellness Programme for staff and Student Counselling and Health for students, will be also hosting various webinars to assist both staff and students with coping mechanisms during this period – and to provide ways to handle changes to their lives, as well as adapting to the new normal. Both staff and students are urged to keep a close watch on their emails, the university website and the university's official social media pages for updates/invites to these webinars.

Please remember to use the **HealthCheck** online screening form **before** you enter the DUT campus. <https://healthcheck.higherhealth.ac.za/>

For those who cannot use the HealthCheck online form, manual screening is taking place at all campus entrances. The manual screening does take time, so please be prepared for delays. We also remind you that the use of a **face mask** is **compulsory** whilst you are on campus or in residence.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had wide-ranging effects on so many of us. A number of people are struggling with their emotions during this challenging time. If you are feeling overwhelmed, confused, fearful or anxious - and you need support, there is plenty of assistance on offer for both staff and students. Talking about what's bothering you can help you to better manage your anxieties and concerns. These services are strictly confidential.

1. If you are a student and need mental health support, please contact Candice on candicel@dut.ac.za or Thokozani on thokozanis1@dut.ac.za. Or call 031 373 2266 in Durban or 033 845 8900/8828 in the Midlands.
2. Please visit this webpage for more information on Student Counselling and Health: https://www.dut.ac.za/support_services/student_services_and_development/student_counselling_and_health/
3. If you are a staff member, please contact Samantha on rajcooms@dut.ac.za for counselling on various platforms. Or contact (031) 373 2025 or email Nobantu on NobantuB@dut.ac.za for assistance.
4. For 24-hour, tollfree mental health assistance for both staff and students, call the Higher Health national hotline on **0800 36 36 36** or **SMS 43336**.

DUT has 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 telephone hotline service is in place at DUT. The hotline will be staffed during office hours, Monday to Friday. The telephone number is: **031 373 3760**.

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 COVID-19 National Call Centre on **012 337 1997**.

You can view the COVID-19 General Information Guide, the Step by Step Guide to Control Infections, FAQs, an archive of statements and other important related information, on the DUT website by clicking this link: <https://www.dut.ac.za/coronavirus/>

Please stay safe, follow the public health guidelines, wear your mask, wash your hands, use a 70% alcohol-based hand sanitizer, practice social and physical distancing, disinfect frequently touched surfaces and avoid gathering in groups.

Sincerely

DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team

