

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

21 August 2020

Dear staff and students

COVID-19 UPDATE

South Africa moved to a Level 2 Lockdown earlier this week, after our government extended the “State of Disaster” due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Whilst the national lockdown level has eased, we remind all staff and students that the coronavirus has not disappeared. We urge you to please continue to remain vigilant and to follow the public health guidelines to protect you and your family, friends and colleagues. So 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, stay in your place of residence and seek medical advice.

The DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team is pleased to announce that a further 25 people have successfully recovered over the last week. Our total number of recoveries now stand at 42. Unfortunately, we had an increase of three positive cases since our update last Friday.

Here are the latest COVID-19 statistics for DUT:

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|--|-------------------------------|
| Total number of cases: | 86 |
| Total number of staff (positive): | 44 |
| Total number of students (positive) | 42 |
| Total number of recoveries: | 42 (20 students and 22 staff) |
| Total number of deaths: | 2 (1 student and 1 staff) |
| Number of new cases this week: | 3 |
| Number of new cases (staff): | 1 |
| Number of new cases (students): | 2 |
| Location of new cases: DBN | 2 |
| Location of new cases: PMB | 1 |
| 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.

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



DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INYUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE