

**UNIVERSITY STATEMENT**

11 September 2020

Dear staff and students

**COVID-19 UPDATE**

The DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team is concerned at the number of reports it has received that there are some staff and students who refuse to wear a mask on campus. The COVID-19 Response Task Team would like to reiterate that wearing a mask, keeping 1.5 metres away from others and regular hand washing/sanitising are all mandatory measures for the DUT community to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

We continue to urge all students and staff to please follow the public health guidelines and prevent the spread of the virus.

Here are the latest COVID-19 statistics for DUT:

Total number of cases:	104	
Total number of staff (positive):	49	
Total number of students (positive)	55	
Total number of recoveries:	89	(47 students and 42 staff)
Total number of deaths:	2	(1 student and 1 staff)
Number of new cases this week:	6	
Number of new cases (staff):	2	
Number of new cases (students):	4	
Location of new cases: DBN	5	
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 communal spaces in residence.

Staff and students are advised that there are three ways to access the **HealthCheck** form:

- Via the link <https://healthcheck.higherhealth.ac.za>
- Add WhatsApp to contacts: 0600 110 000 / <https://wa.me/27600110000?text=hi>
- Or, dial in to HealthCheck **tollfree** on \*134\*832\*2#

Only if you receive a **green light** may you proceed to campus. Show your device and student/staff card to Security at the entrance, and you will be given entry. HealthCheck must be completed every day.

When going to campus for the first time since lockdown, please proceed to Protection Services (Security) on the Ritson campus to have your student or staff card upgraded to allow for compatibility with the new entry system.

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 trained 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 [candice@dut.ac.za](mailto:candice@dut.ac.za) or Thokozani on [thokozanis1@dut.ac.za](mailto: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/](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](mailto:rajcooms@dut.ac.za) for counselling on various platforms. Or contact (031) 373 2025 or email Nobantu on [NobantuB@dut.ac.za](mailto:NobantuB@dut.ac.za) for assistance.
4. For 24-hour tollfree, mental health assistance for both staff and students, please 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](mailto: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 read the COVID-19 General Information Guide, the Step by Step Guide to Control Infections and various other important coronavirus related information, on the DUT website by clicking on 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