

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

20 November 2020

Dear staff and students

UPDATE: COVID-19

The Minister of Health Dr Zweli Mkhize has raised serious concerns about the increasing number of coronavirus cases in South Africa, with the country now reporting an average of more than 2000 new cases a day. The Minister said that he was very concerned by the complacency of so many people, who fail to wear masks and “act like life has returned to normal.” Dr Mkhize has urged all South Africans to behave responsibly and to follow the public health guidelines.

Globally, more than 57.2 million people have now been infected with SARS-CoV-2. Yesterday, South Africa confirmed 2514 new infections. Last night, we were 36th in the world for new daily infections, up six places from 42nd two weeks ago. South Africa remains 9th in the world for total recoveries. Sadly, 115 people in South Africa passed on from COVID-19 related conditions yesterday. Therefore, we must work together to fight this disease. Please continue to wear your face mask, practice social and physical distancing, wash your hands with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds, use a 70% alcohol-based hand sanitiser and regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surface areas.

Here are the latest COVID-19 statistics for DUT:

Total number of people infected:	117
Total number of staff (positive):	55
Total number of students (positive):	62
Total number of recoveries:	108 (58 students and 50 staff)
Total number of deaths:	2 (1 student and 1 staff)
Total number of active cases:	7
Number of new infections:	3 (this week)
Number of new infections (staff):	1 (this week)
Number of new infections (students):	2 (this week)
Location of new infections: (DBN)	3
Location of new infections: (PMB)	0
Has contact tracing commenced:	Yes
Has physical disinfection commenced:	Yes

We hope and pray for the safe return to good health for those members of the DUT community, who are currently fighting this disease.

The reality is that the COVID-19 pandemic has had physical and mental repercussions on a number of people. If you are experiencing depression, anxiety or any other emotional difficulties, please reach out for assistance. Free, compassionate, counselling and support is available to DUT staff and students as follows:

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 for online counselling. You can also call 031 373 2266 in Durban or 033 845 8900/8828 in the Midlands.
2. Students should also visit this webpage on the DUT website 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 feel free to email Samantha on rajcooms@dut.ac.za for counselling on various platforms. You can also call 031 373 2025 or email NobantuB@dut.ac.za for assistance.
4. Mental health support is available 24 hours a day to both students and staff. Please call the tollfree Higher Health national hotline on 0800 36 36 36 or SMS 43336.

To avoid congestion and delays at our campus entrances, please ensure that you always complete the **HealthCheck** online screening form **before** arriving on campus. There are three ways for you to access the online form:

- a. <https://healthcheck.higherhealth.ac.za>
- b. WhatsApp to contacts: 0600 110 000 / <https://wa.me/27600110000?text=hi>
- c. Dial in to HealthCheck tollfree on *134*832*2#

You can only proceed to enter campus when you have received the **green light** after completing the online form.

Please show your device, permit and student/staff card to the campus security team at the entrance gate and you will then be granted access to our campus. Kindly remember that the HealthCheck online form must be completed for each daily visit/attendance on campus.

Please view the DUT COVID-19 webpage by clicking on this link:

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

Kindly review the DUT COVID-19 Information Booklet by clicking on this link:

<https://www.dut.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/COVID-19-Information-Booklet-07-09-2020.pdf>

COVID-19 protocols are still in place at DUT

Although South Africa is currently on Alert Level 1 of the “State of Disaster” as declared by the President, there is still a very strong possibility of further increases in the rate of infection. The DUT community must continue to take the COVID-19 pandemic very seriously.

For this reason, we want to remind you that the following rules still apply:

- Always wear a mask on campus and in communal areas in residence.
- Please keep a minimum of 1.5 metres away from other people and avoid large groups.
- Thoroughly wash your hands for a minimum of 20 seconds with water and soap.
- Sanitise frequently touched surface areas.
- Do not touch your face with unwashed hands.
- Sneeze, cough or yawn into your bent elbow, even if you are using a mask.

Thank you for your continued efforts in helping to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 in our country. Please remain alert at all times and do everything within your ability to stay safe, to wear your mask, to wash your hands, to avoid large groups, to protect your family and your friends and ultimately, to save lives...

Sincerely

DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team

DUT
DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INYUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE