

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

18 December 2020

Dear staff and students

UPDATE: COVID-19

Last night, South Africa reported 9 126 new COVID-19 cases, the highest number since the pandemic hit our shores. It is with regret that the national number of fatalities grows rapidly each day. In the last 24 hours, 184 deaths have been reported: 103 were from Eastern Cape, 58 from the Western Cape, 11 are from Gauteng, with 8 being from Kwa-Zulu Natal and four from the Free State. The total number of reported fatalities in South Africa stands at 24 011.

It is sad that in our institution, the COVID-19 Response Task Team, Management and the Student Representative Council (SRC) early this week received reports of non-compliance to the set COVID-19 guidelines and Protocols. The University would like to issue a stern warning that there will be harsh punishment imposed on those who deliberately lower their guard, putting others at risk of contracting this virus. It is utmost important that each one of us take responsibility by consistently **washing and sanitising our hands, observing physical and social distancing and wearing our masks.**

DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INVUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE**Here are the latest COVID-19 Statistics for DUT:**

Total number of people infected: 176

Total number of staff (positive): 85

Total number of students (positive): 91

Total number of recoveries (students): 129

Total number of deaths: 3 (2 staff and 1 student)

Total number of new cases: 26

Total number of new cases this week (students): 8

Total number of new cases this week (staff): 18

Location of new infections (Durban): 25

Location of new infections (Midlands): 1

Has contact tracing commenced: Yes

Has physical disinfection commenced: Yes

The DUT COVID-19 Response Task team would like to extend its sincere condolences to the friends, colleagues and family of the deceased colleague.

It is important to note that the pandemic has taken its toll on every individual, 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

Whilst South Africa is currently on Alert Level 1 in the “State of Disaster” , we must remember that the country is going through the second wave and the virus is still very much alive- the DUT community must continue to take the COVID-19 pandemic very seriously.

Therefore, 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.
- Please sneeze, cough or yawn into your bent elbow, even if you are using a mask.
- Thoroughly wash your cloth face mask after each use.
- Disposable masks should only be used once.

So 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** and to **stop the spread**.

Sincerely

DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team

