

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

05 February 2021

Dear staff and students

DUT COVID-19 UPDATE

A million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine arrived in the country on Monday and the vaccination campaign is expected to commence in the days ahead. As per the vaccine roll-out campaign, healthcare workers will be vaccinated first. The President announced that during the course of this year, the plan is to vaccinate millions of people in South Africa. This means that we will still be facing the challenges of COVID-19, so we remind you to please **wear your mask, wash your hands, practice physical distancing and help to save lives...**

Globally, more than 102 million people have now been infected with SARS-CoV-2 and its variants. Yesterday, South Africa confirmed 7150 new infections. Sadly, 555 people in South Africa passed on from COVID-19 related medical conditions yesterday.

Here are the latest COVID-19 statistics for DUT:

Total number of people infected:	237
Total number of staff (positive):	124
Total number of students (positive):	113
Total number of recoveries:	225 (111 students and 114 staff)
Total number of deaths:	8 (2 students and 6 staff)
Total number of active cases:	4
Number of new infections:	3 (this week)
Number of new infections (staff):	3 (this week)
Number of new infections (students):	0 (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 wish our students and staff a safe return to good health.

Yesterday, we posted the booklet produced by the Department of Health called “Getting to know your COVID-19 Vaccines” on the DUT website. Please read it when you have an opportunity:

<https://www.dut.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Getting-To-Know-Your-COVID-19-Vaccines.pdf>

You can also view the Coronavirus and Vaccines booklet by clicking on this link:

<https://www.dut.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/CORONAVIRUS-AND-VACCINE-BOOKLET.pdf>

We would like to remind you that in terms of the regulations gazetted by our government, it is compulsory for every person to wear a face mask in public. Anyone failing to comply, will be committing a criminal offence, which could result in a fine of up to R1500.00 or, up to six months in prison and a criminal record.

WEARING OF FACE MASKS & PHYSICAL DISTANCING

The Durban University of Technology is extremely committed to promoting the health and safety of all students and staff. Each member of the DUT community must adhere to the COVID-19 policy and protocols - and you have a responsibility to know and to act in accordance with all of the applicable laws of the country, for our collective health and safety.

Wearing face masks correctly can reduce the transmission of the coronavirus. In accordance with the Department of Health COVID-19 guidelines and regulations, the Durban University of Technology requires students and staff to wear face masks on all campuses, public and shared and outdoor spaces, including any instructional spaces and in student residences. Physical distancing of at least 1.5 metres must also be maintained at all times. All students and staff must sanitise their hands upon entry to DUT property - and then wash or sanitise their hands regularly throughout the day. Hand hygiene dictates that you should wash your hands with soap and water, for a minimum of 20 seconds. The soap helps to breakdown the virus wall (if it's on your hands) in 20 seconds.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF

The current 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>

Finally, we have a shared responsibility to protect our family and friends and to ensure that we keep the entire university community safe from the further spread this devastating disease.

Sincerely

DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team