

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

19 February 2021

Dear staff and students

UPDATE: COVID-19

It was an important week in the fight against COVID-19 in South Africa, as our government commenced with the vaccination roll out programme. The Johnson & Johnson vaccines arrived in the country and healthcare workers across the nation will be part of the first phase of the national vaccination plan. However, this does not mean that we should now lower our guard. The DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team reminds you that the virus is still active in our communities. Whilst infection rates have declined in recent days, people are still passing on due to COVID-19 related complications, so please, wear your mask, wash your hands and observe physical distancing guidelines.

Here are the latest COVID-19 statistics for DUT:

Total number of people infected:	240
Total number of staff (positive):	126
Total number of students (positive):	114
Total number of recoveries:	228 (111 students and 117 staff)
Total number of deaths:	10 (3 students and 7 staff)
Total number of active cases:	2 (2 staff)
Number of new infections:	1 (this week)
Number of new infections (staff):	1 (this week)
Number of new infections (students):	0 (this week)
Location of new infections: (DBN)	1
Location of new infections: (PMB)	0
Has contact tracing commenced:	Yes
Has physical disinfection commenced:	Yes

We wish our two colleagues who are fighting COVID-19 at the moment a safe return to good health.

In our collective struggle to defeat COVID-19, remember that our **SURVIVAL** as a community and as individuals is about:

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- Prevention
 - Awareness
 - Being prepared &
 - Knowing how to get help when you have a problem.

So, how do you get help if you have a problem?

If you develop symptoms of COVID-19 or test positive, do not come to campus. Please email the COVID-19 Hotline on covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za for advice on what to do and inform your HOD, lecturer or Residence Advisor by telephone or via email.

If you are already on campus, please contact the DUT Clinics for assessment, as you may need to leave campus immediately. The Clinics can be contacted on **031 373 2223** (Durban), **033 845 8913/8966** (Indumiso) or **033 845 8811/8812** (Riverside).

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If you live in residence, please inform your Residence Advisor immediately. They will advise you accordingly. Please also immediately inform your Head of Department or Lecturer.

If you develop severe symptoms such as difficulty breathing, shortness of breath or high fever, call the DUT Clinics as above during office hours, or call **0600 123 456** (via WhatsApp); 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**.

If you do get tested, please send your COVID-19 test results to your Head of Department, lecturer or Residence Advisor for forwarding to the COVID-19 hotline on covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za

No negative test is required for returning to campus after the completion of isolation/quarantine.

DUT Student Counselling

Many people are finding the COVID-19 pandemic extremely stressful. If you are bereaved or feeling overwhelmed, confused, fearful or anxious, and you need support, talking to a trained professional can help. The pandemic has also resulted in increasing gender-based violence (GBV). If you are suffering GBV, please reach out for assistance.

The following services are provided strictly confidential:

Speak to a DUT Psychologist

Please contact Candice on candice@dut.ac.za or Thokozani on thokozani1@dut.ac.za. Or call 031 373 2266 in Durban or dial 033 845 8900/8828 in the Midlands. Please visit this link: https://www.dut.ac.za/support_services/student_services_and_development/student_counselling_and_health/ for more information on Student Counselling and Health.

Or, for **24-hour, tollfree mental health assistance**, call the Higher Health national hotline on **0800 36 36 36** or **SMS 43336**.

DUT's daily COVID-19 protocol: What should you do when you come onto campus in 2021?



Firstly, please be aware that only those students and staff members who have been invited to come onto campus, and who have a valid entry permit, will be granted access to campus.

I. Before coming to campus:

Complete the **HealthCheck COVID-19 online screening form** every day before leaving your place of residence. This form is to screen for symptoms of COVID-19 and to help prevent the further spread of the infection. Please be completely honest in your responses to the questions before attempting to gain access to campus.

You can access the HealthCheck form in three ways:

- Dial HealthCheck on *134*832*2# (this is a free call).
- Go to: <https://healthcheck.higherhealth.ac.za>

- Add 0600 110 000 / <https://wa.me/27600110000?text=hi> to your WhatsApp to contacts.

If you get an **orange light** or a **red light**, please do not proceed to campus. Instead, please call the COVID-19 Hotline on **031 373 3760** or **031 373 2223** or email covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za for advice on what to do. Please also keep your Head of Department, lecturer or Residence Advisor informed.

If you receive a **green light** on HealthCheck, **wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water and put on a face mask** covering both your nose and mouth. You may now safely proceed to campus.

3. When you reach the entrance to campus, please:

- Allow the Security Officer to take your temperature. A higher than usual body temperature can be an indicator of a fever and this could be a symptom of COVID-19.
- Show your student card, your entry permit and your HealthCheck result to the Security Officer.
- Sanitise your hands.
- Please stay a minimum 1.5 metres away from other people, to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19. This is one of the most effective measures that you can take to prevent becoming infected or infecting others. Remember, some people can have COVID-19 and experience no symptoms.
- Please avoid shaking hands, fist bumps, hugging, kissing or any close contact with others. This can radically reduce transmission of the disease.
- DUT has a **#NoMaskNoEntry** policy: Entry will be denied to any person not wearing an appropriate face mask.

COVID-19 Regulations continue at DUT

Please note that regardless of changes to the lockdown level or national legislation, all COVID-19 mitigation strategies currently in place at DUT will continue. These are:

Space - remain a minimum of 1.5 metres away from any other person, at all times on campus and in public.

Face - wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth at all times on campus and in public.

Hands - sanitise your hands when entering campus and continue to clean your hands regularly throughout the day.

Clean - clean/sanitise frequently touched surfaces.

Fingers – do not touch your face with unwashed hands.

We urge you to play your part in helping to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Please follow the public health guidelines. You can view our COVID-19 webpage by clicking on this link: <https://www.dut.ac.za/coronavirus/>

In conclusion, the co-chairperson of the COVID-19 Ministerial Advisory Committee Professor Salim Abdool Karim has confirmed that he expects a third wave of infections to strike our country by June. He is further warning about a fourth wave that could strike in December. At the time of the predicted third wave of infections mid-2021, around 10% of the South African population would have received their vaccines, so we still need to work together to limit the spread of the virus and to save lives.

Please, wear your mask, wash your hands, use a minimum 70% alcohol-based hand sanitiser, disinfect frequently touched surface areas, observe social distancing by staying a minimum 1.5 metres away from other people and avoid gathering in groups.

Sincerely

DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team



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