

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

09 July 2021

COVID-19 RESPONSE TASK TEAM WEEKLY STATEMENT

Dear staff and students

KwaZulu-Natal was in the spotlight this week, with all districts, as at 03 July 2021, reporting between 32% and 97% increases in COVID-19 cases in a week, compared to the previous seven days. In addition, the incidence of cases is high in several districts in the province, including Amajuba, eThekweni, uMgungundlovu, uMkhanyakude and Zululand. South Africa is now seeing over 21 000 new COVID-19 positive cases daily. The message is clear. KwaZulu-Natal is in the throes of a third wave of the pandemic. As a result, we need to take every possible precaution to prevent ourselves and others from contracting this potentially life-threatening disease.

As of last night, South Africa ranked 8th out of 222 countries and territories for new cases in a single day, 7th globally for new deaths in a 24-hour period and 10th in the world for new recoveries. There are currently 208 847 active cases in South Africa.

Here are the COVID-19 stats for DUT this week:

TOTAL NUMBER OF POSITIVE CASES:	262
TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF WHO TESTED POSITIVE:	138
TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO TESTED POSITIVE:	124
NUMBER OF NEW CASES TO REPORT:	5
NUMBER OF NEW CASES (Students):	2
NUMBER OF NEW CASES (Staff):	3
LOCATION OF NEW CASES:	Durban 5 & PMB 0

NUMBER OF RECOVERIES:	245
TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS:	10 (7 staff & 3 students)
TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVE CASES:	7 (4 staff & 3 students)
HAS CONTACT TRACING COMMENCED:	Yes
HAS DISINFECTION OF AREAS COMMENCED:	Yes

We wish our colleagues and students a safe and successful return to good health.

New, super-contagious Delta variant now dominates COVID-19 infections in South Africa

The Delta variant of the virus continues to spread rapidly around South Africa. It is now responsible for over 72% of infections in Gauteng and over 60% of cases in the Western Cape. In KwaZulu-Natal, research shows that the variant has grown from 100 infections per week to well over 1000 a week, in just 14 days. Other provinces are also affected by this variant.

The Delta variant is 30-60% more infectious than the Beta variant that drove South Africa's second wave, and is far more contagious, spreading much more rapidly than the other variants seen in South Africa. Unfortunately, research shows that anyone who was infected with the other variants can still be infected by the Delta variant. Also, early data from Great Britain shows that younger people might be more vulnerable to the new Delta variant. The good news is that both the Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccines being used in South Africa, show good protection against severe disease, when someone becomes infected with the Delta variant.

Vaccination programme now open for over 50s

Staff aged 50 and over are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccination. If you fall within this category and you would like to be vaccinated via DUT's vaccination programme, please click on the following link and register:

https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=0TAZS_QStUC0jL2GEXOp2MYOHRODTRxPgX9my3TlkXtURjRNSzRGVFc4TI daNEYxSUwyNIRITTNKRC4u

After you submit your details, the DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team will then provide you with an appointment for vaccination, which is free of charge. If you are a member of a medical aid, the vaccination is paid for through your medical aid. If not, the State pays for your vaccination.

Before you can be vaccinated, please register on the Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS) by going to: <https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za/#/>

Note: If you have tested positive for COVID-19, please wait 30 days before vaccination from date of positive test. Please ensure that you have informed DUT of your positive test result.

By getting vaccinated, your risks of serious illness, hospitalisation and dying from COVID-19 are drastically reduced. Not only are you protecting yourself - but you are caring for the health of your loved ones, as well as the broader community. We encourage vaccination in everyone who is eligible, even if you have been infected with COVID-19 in the past. Vaccines save lives and they are free!


More vaccination sites open

As more vaccination sites open, anyone over 50 can now be vaccinated at certain pharmacies.

Dis-Chem: (https://www.dischem.co.za/covid-19-vaccination?utm_source=google&utm_medium=search&utm_campaign=dynamic&gclid=CjwKCAjwoZWHBhBgEiwAiMN66aX8QlePSzFaach6qINWabqv-2X5UqIMXD_jqAVWPOXvsj68z8DVfhoCwLQQA vD_BwE) and Clicks: (<https://clicks.co.za/covidvaccine>).

Appeal: Please let us know if you have been vaccinated against COVID-19

The COVID-19 Response Task Team kindly requests all DUT staff to please complete the following link to let us know what proportion of staff have been vaccinated. This will allow us to further plan our vaccination programme to address the unmet need among those who qualify for vaccination.



Your details will remain strictly confidential and your responses will be used for statistical purposes only. We thank you for your anticipated assistance. Please follow this link to the electronic form: <https://forms.office.com/r/gPwsb0rWVDN>

DUT's compulsory COVID-19 guidelines

All persons on DUT property are requested to:

- Wear a mask at all times on campus.
- Social distance by 1.5 metres from others.
- Sanitise one's hands at entrances to campus and venues

Failure to follow these guidelines shall lead to disciplinary and/or criminal action.

To protect yourself and others, please also:

- Avoid crowded, unventilated spaces, and avoid all gatherings, no matter how small.
- Stay at your place or residence as much as possible. Please keep contact with people outside your household to the absolute minimum.
- Avoid physical contact when interacting with others. Rather keep your distance.

If you test positive for COVID-19, please inform DUT, even if you haven't been on campus

For statistical, surveillance and management purposes, all staff and students are asked to inform DUT if you test positive for COVID-19, even if you have not been on campus or been in contact with anyone from DUT. Your test results will remain confidential.

Students in residence are asked to immediately inform your Residence Advisor. Staff members and students not in residence are requested to notify your HOD/Line Manager, who should then inform your Faculty or Divisional or departmental COVID-19 Response Task Team representative. COVID-19 test results can be emailed to: covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za.

In conclusion, as the third wave grips KwaZulu-Natal and the rest of South Africa, please remain extra-cautious and vigilant to prevent further infections. Please avoid all gatherings, **wear a mask** securely covering your nose and mouth, stay a minimum of **1.5 metres away** from all other persons, **wash your hands** frequently with soap and water or with a 70% alcohol-based solution and get vaccinated against COVID-19 when it is your turn.

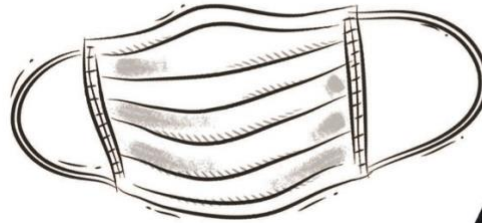
Please take care, stay safe and **stop the spread...**



Sincerely

DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INYUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE

DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team



“Mask Up”!

KEEP THE RISK DOWN

PROTOCOLS & RESOURCES

DUT
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If you think you may have COVID-19, please

1. Stay at home or in residence.
2. Contact the DUT Clinics for advice (see WhatsApp numbers below).
3. Inform your Residence Advisor and/or Lecturer/HOD.
4. Rest and drink plenty of fluids.
5. Treat your symptoms, eg take paracetamol (such as Panado) for fever and pain.
6. Wash your hands often with soap and water.
7. Cover your coughs and sneezes with your elbow, not your hand.
8. Stay away from other people to prevent them from becoming infected.
9. If you develop a high fever, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, contact your doctor, the DUT Clinics (see below for WhatsApp numbers) or the COVID-19 Hotline or WhatsApp lines (see below) for assistance.
10. If you do get tested, please send your COVID-19 test results to your Head of Department or lecturer for forwarding to the COVID-19 Hotline on covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za.

Mental health support for students and staff

Any student or staff member who is having mental health, relationship, study or other difficulties is asked to reach out for help from the services available from DUT and other support organisations. Help is available 24 hours per day.

DUT counselling services for students:	Counsbookingdbn@dut.ac.za	Durban - during office hours.
	Counsellingpmb@dut.ac.za	Midlands – during office hours.
DUT counselling services for staff:	ewp@dut.ac.za	During office hours.

24-hour mental health support services

Higher Health National Hotline	0800 36 36 36 or SMS 43336
South African Depression & Anxiety Group (SADAG)	0800 12 13 14
<u>Lifeline</u>	0861 322 322
South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (SANCA) for alcohol or drug dependence problems	08611 73422

Important contact numbers for information and advice on COVID-19

DUT Clinics		
WhatsApp lines	067 370 4482 / 083 783 7057	During office hours
COVID-19 Hotline	0800 029 999	24 hours
COVID-19 WhatsApp line	0600 12 3456	24 hours

DUT COVID-19 Hotline

031 373 3760 / 031 373 2223

During office hours

covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za

Resources on COVID-19 and vaccination

Official SA government COVID-19 website

<https://sacoronavirus.co.za/>

National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD)

<https://www.nicd.ac.za/diseases-a-z-index/covid-19/>

DUT COVID-19 webpage

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

STOP THE SPREAD



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