

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

3 September 2021

COVID-19 RESPONSE TASK TEAM WEEKLY STATEMENT

Dear staff and students

COVID-19 infections in South Africa remain high, and KwaZulu-Natal now has over 55 000 people actively infected with the virus out of over 145 000 positive cases in the country. KZN accounts for nearly 38% of people infected countrywide. But there is good news; a ray of hope for us all. To date, over 13 million vaccines have been safely administered to people across the length and breadth of South Africa.

Vaccination begins at DUT on Wednesday 8 September

DUT and the Department of Health are delighted to announce the opening of DUT's own on-campus COVID-19 vaccination centre.

From **Wednesday 8 September 2021**, DUT students and staff are encouraged to come forward for vaccination against this preventable, but potentially life-threatening, disease. Students and/or staff who would like to be vaccinated are welcome, no booking needed. Our vaccination site is situated at the DUT Hotel School on the Ritson Campus in Durban. Please bring your ID and student/staff card with you. For further information, please email FrancesH@dut.ac.za.

What are the benefits of vaccination against COVID-19?

Most of us have received several vaccinations as children to protect us against diseases such as hepatitis, polio, measles, and other illnesses that can be avoided with a simple vaccination. Research has shown that the COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective.

While no vaccine offers 100% prevention, the COVID-19 vaccines do their job very well: they prevent you from getting severely ill **from** COVID-19 and they dramatically reduce your chances of being hospitalised from complications arising from the disease. This reduces suffering and pressure on the health care system. But research has highlighted that one of the greatest effects of the COVID-19 vaccines is that they almost entirely eliminate your chances of dying from the disease.

Here's the reality. No one is safe from COVID-19 without vaccination and without adopting the basic precautions. The coronavirus responsible for COVID-19 attacks people of all ages, including children and the youth, who can become severely ill and even die. Therefore, it makes sense to get vaccinated against this preventable disease that can be fatal.

Getting vaccinated is not only about the individual; it is also an act of compassion and care for other people. Even if you, personally, don't become very sick from COVID-19, it's possible that you could pass it on to someone whose life might be in danger. If you get vaccinated, you will be protecting your family, friends and colleagues, as well as the whole of South African society. Vaccines save lives!

Please register before vaccination

If you are able to, please register on the national Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS) before going for vaccination. You can click on the following link:

<https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za/#/>

Or you can register using USSD by dialling ***134*832*IDNumber#** and if you do not have an ID number, just dial ***134*832#** to register. Or you can register via WhatsApp by sending the word **REGISTER** to **0600 012 3456**.

Those attending the vaccination site and have not registered, should bring their ID Document to be assisted with registration. **If you unable to register in advance, you will be registered at the vaccination centre.**

Here are the latest COVID-19 statistics for the DUT community:

TOTAL NUMBER OF POSITIVE CASES:	301
TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF WHO TESTED POSITIVE:	164
TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO TESTED POSITIVE:	137
NUMBER OF NEW CASES TO REPORT:	3
NUMBER OF NEW CASES (Students):	2
NUMBER OF NEW CASES (Staff):	1
LOCATION OF NEW CASES:	Durban 3 & PMB 0
NUMBER OF RECOVERIES:	283 (Student 129, Staff 154)
Total Number of Deaths:	10 (7 staff & 3 student).
Total Number of Active cases:	8 (4 students & 4 staff)
HAS CONTACT TRACING COMMENCED FOR NEW CASES:	Yes
HAS DISINFECTION OF AREAS COMMENCED FOR NEW CASES:	Yes

We pray for the safe return to good health for all those who are fighting the infection.

Once again, we continue to appeal to the DUT community to follow the basic prevention measures: **avoid gatherings wherever possible** and **avoid poorly-ventilated venues; wear a mask** covering your nose and mouth securely; **stay a minimum of 1.5 metres from all other persons; clean your hands** frequently with soap and water or with a 70% alcohol-based sanitiser - and **get vaccinated** as soon as possible.

Please take care and stay safe.

Sincerely

DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team

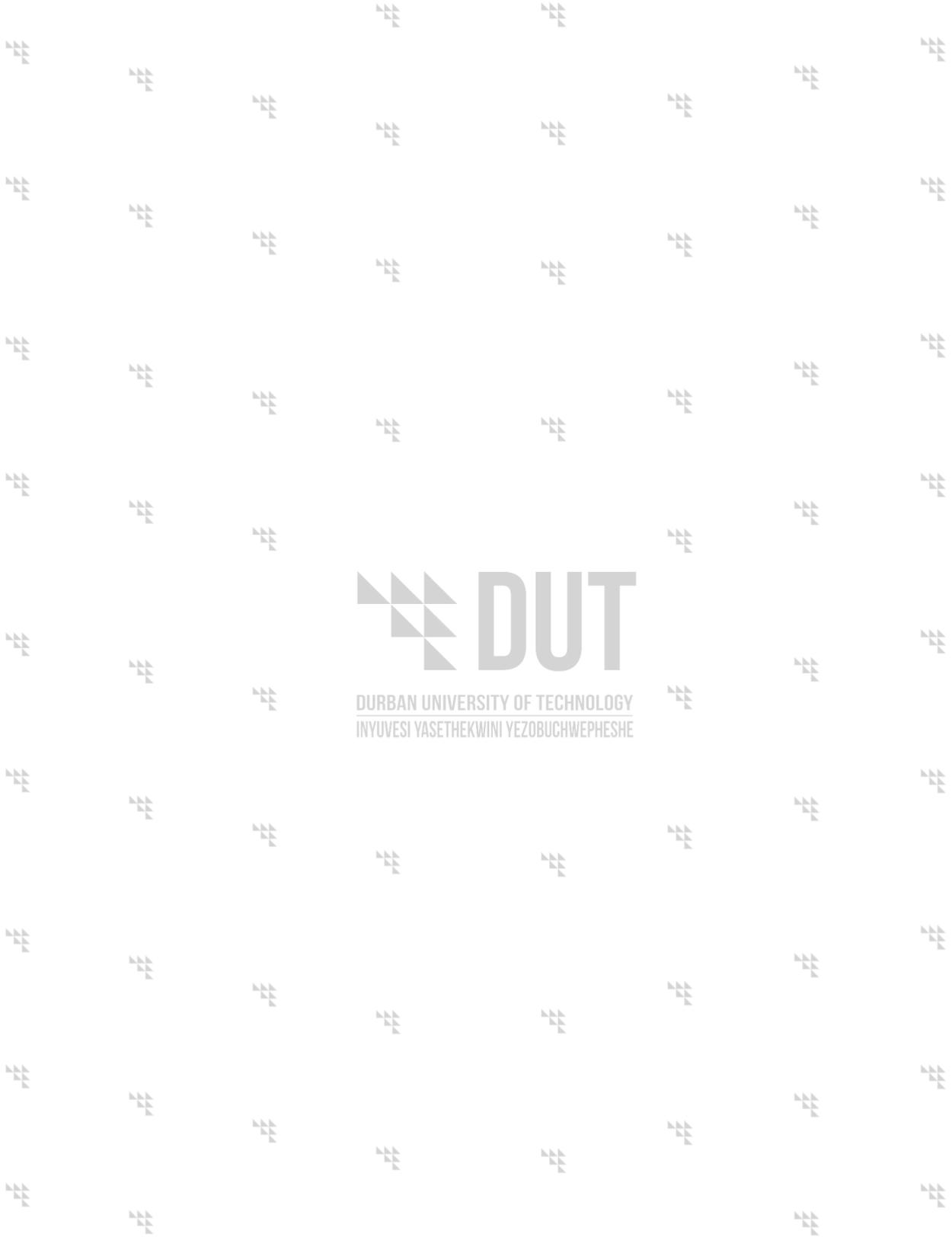
#DUTGETYOURJOB

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