

## UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

29 October 2021

### COVID-19 RESPONSE TASK TEAM WEEKLY UPDATE

Dear staff and students

With COVID-19 infections currently decreasing countrywide, the emphasis now is on preventing a serious fourth wave of the pandemic, by encouraging everyone who qualifies, to get fully vaccinated as soon as possible. The scientific data is clear; according to Johns Hopkins University and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, vaccines significantly protect people from severe disease, hospitalisation and death as a result of COVID-19.

In fact, the Centres for Disease Control (CDC) reports that **unvaccinated people have died at 11 times the rate of fully vaccinated individuals** since the Delta variant became the dominant strain in the USA. The research, which was published in The British Medical Journal (*The BMJ*), also highlighted that **vaccinated people were 10 times less likely to be admitted to hospital** and **five times less likely to be infected** than unvaccinated people (<https://www.bmj.com/content/374/bmj.n2282>).

#### **Don't hesitate. Vaccinate!**

With the end-of-year holiday season fast approaching, it's not too late to get vaccinated against COVID-19 to allow you to enjoy a safer festive season with your family and friends. The good news is that DUT has extended its **#VaccinationThursdays** campaign, due to demand from students and staff. For quick and easy vaccination with the *Johnson & Johnson* vaccine, please visit the DUT Isolempilo Clinic on the Steve Biko campus on a Thursday, from 08h30 to 15h00. You don't need to make an appointment. Just take your staff/student card and your ID.

If you would prefer the Pfizer vaccine, please call the Clinic during office hours on 031 373 2223 to make a firm appointment or email [covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za](mailto:covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za) for more information. If you are due for your second dose of the Pfizer vaccine, please contact the Isolempilo Clinic during office hours on 031 373 2223 to make an appointment. Everyone, vaccinated or not, is asked to please continue to follow the **basic precautions** of wearing a mask, social distancing and practising good hand hygiene. This is because the COVID-19 vaccines, like all vaccines, do not offer 100% protection against catching COVID-19. However, they do significantly reduce your chances of contracting the disease or passing it on to others.

If DUT can reach maximum vaccination of students and staff, we can begin to return to more in-person events and teaching and learning and start to attain new kind of 'normal' for our university.



# YOU'RE NOT FULLY-VACCINATED UNTIL YOU'VE HAD ALL YOUR SHOTS

**Johnson & Johnson vaccine: 1 injection required**

**Pfizer: 2 injections required, 42 to 60 days apart**

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## Vaccine information is only a click or a call away

Once again, the COVID-19 Response Task Team wishes to reassure the DUT community that the vaccines are safe and effective and urges you to consult only reputable sources of information should you have questions.

The following sites offer accurate, reliable information about the vaccines:

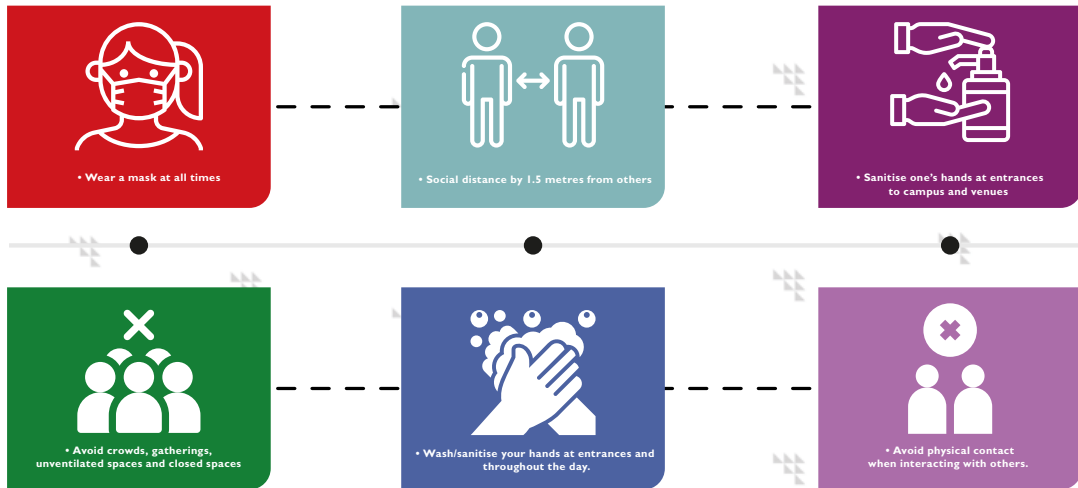
- <https://www.gov.za/covid-19/vaccine/vaccine>
- <https://sacoronavirus.co.za/vaccine-updates/>
- <https://dut-cdn2.azureedge.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/CORONAVIRUS-AND-VACCINE-BOOKLET.pdf>

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# DUT'S MANDATORY COVID-19 REGULATIONS

All persons on DUT property are requested to:



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

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

TOTAL NUMBER OF POSITIVE CASES:	313
TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF WHO TESTED POSITIVE:	168
TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO TESTED POSITIVE:	145
NUMBER OF NEW CASES TO REPORT:	0
NUMBER OF NEW CASES (Students):	0
NUMBER OF NEW CASES (Staff):	0
LOCATION OF NEW CASES:	0 Durban & 0 PMB
NUMBER OF RECOVERIES:	302 (141 students & 161 staff)
Total Number of Deaths:	11 (3 students & 8 staff)
Total Number of Active cases:	0 (0 students & 0 staff)
HAS CONTACT TRACING COMMENCED FOR NEW CASES:	No new reported cases this week.
HAS DISINFECTION OF AREAS COMMENCED FOR NEW CASES:	No new reported cases this week.

We are truly grateful that all of the active cases in the DUT community over the last two weeks have had positive outcomes.

In conclusion, please continue to be responsible and play your part in keeping our university community, your family, friends and South Africa safe by **wearing a mask** covering your nose and mouth securely when in public; **stay a minimum of 1.5 metres away from all other persons**; and **clean your hands** frequently with soap and water or with a minimum 70% alcohol-based hand sanitiser. Most importantly, we urge all members of the DUT community to please get vaccinated as soon as possible.

Please take care, stay safe and mask up.

Sincerely

**DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team**

**#DUTGetYourJob**

**#DUTGettingBackToNormal**

