

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

5 November 2021

COVID-19 RESPONSE TASK TEAM WEEKLY UPDATE

Dear staff and students

Thankfully, new COVID-19 infection rates remain relatively low, and over 22 million vaccine doses have been administered in South Africa. However, just three days ago on 2 November 2021, 18 540 people in South Africa were recorded as having active COVID-19. This is still a large number of people who are in danger of becoming severely ill or being hospitalised if they are unvaccinated. Sadly, a few might even lose their lives.

If you are vaccinated against COVID-19, the good news is that you are less likely to catch it in the first place, and if you do become infected, you have a far greater chance of only mild symptoms. Most importantly, you are also unlikely to need hospitalisation or die.

#DUTGetYourJab

To get your COVID-19 vaccination, go along to the Isolempilo Clinic on the Steve Biko campus on **#VaccinationThursdays**. You don't need an appointment; only your ID and student/staff card. The vaccine is free and is administered by trained, professional nurses.

The Clinic is administering the J & J vaccine at present, but if you would prefer the Pfizer vaccine, please email covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za to make an appointment.

Students and staff from the Midlands campuses who are due for their second vaccine doses will be informed of arrangements being made for vaccination.

A booster vaccination is now available for healthcare workers who participated in the Sisonke study and who received their first doses of the J & J vaccine. As soon as we receive confirmation from the Department of Health, we will inform those who are eligible for a booster vaccine.

Misinformation abounds

During the COVID-19 pandemic, misinformation has spread rapidly, with new myths surfacing regularly. One such myth causing significant vaccine hesitancy is the myth that vaccines cause infertility in both women and men. This is false information, and there is no evidence to support these claims. In fact, if you get COVID-19, it could negatively affect your fertility.

Another prominent myth in circulation is the contention that the COVID-19 vaccines were created by the devil and are the mark of the beast. There is no evidence to support such an interpretation of the Bible.

Make sure you consult a trusted source for correct information about the vaccines. The following sites offer accurate, reliable information:

- <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>

If you would like to speak to someone, please call the Isolempilo Clinic for assistance on 031 373 2223 during office hours, or email covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za

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:	in Durban 0 & in PMB 0
Number of recoveries: (students & staff)	(Students 141 & Staff 161)
Total number of deaths: (staff & students)	(Students 3 & Staff 8)
Total number of active cases: (staff & students)	(Students 0 & Staff 0)
Has contact tracing commenced for new cases?	Yes
Has disinfection taken place for new cases?	Yes

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

To conclude, please note that DUT's COVID-19 regulations remain firmly in place to prevent the spread of the disease. Please continue to **wear a mask** covering your nose and mouth securely when in public; **stay a minimum of 1.5 metres from all other persons**; and **practice good hand hygiene** using soap and water or a 70% alcohol-based sanitiser. Most importantly, we strongly urge all members of the DUT community to get vaccinated as soon as possible to ensure that we can get back to 'normal' operations in 2022.

Please take care, stay safe and mask up.

Sincerely

DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team

#DUTGetYourJob

#DUTGettingBackToNormal

