



DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INYUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

3 December 2021

COVID-19 RESPONSE TASK TEAM WEEKLY UPDATE

Dear staff and students

In just 11 days, South Africa's new COVID-19 infections have increased from 312 on 22 November to 11 535 yesterday. This massive, 37-fold increase is cause for concern, and should serve as a clarion call to everyone to get vaccinated without delay, to wear a mask in public, keep a distance of at least 1.5 metres between yourself and others not from your household, and practice good hand hygiene.

On Sunday, President Cyril Ramaphosa addressed the nation about the new COVID-19 variant of concern now known as Omicron. In his speech at the Union Buildings in Tshwane, the President made an impassioned plea to all of us who live in South Africa: **get vaccinated urgently!**

The President pointed out that although more research into Omicron is required, we know enough about this new variant to know what we need to do to reduce transmission and protect ourselves against severe disease and death: the first, most powerful tool being vaccination.

Since the introduction of the COVID-19 vaccines, there has been a dramatic reduction in severe illness, hospitalisation and death in South Africa and around the world. The vaccines are working and they are saving lives.

We urge everyone to heed the President's call: "I ... call on every person who has not been vaccinated to go to their nearest vaccination station without delay. If there is someone in your family or among your friends who is not vaccinated, I call on you to encourage them to get vaccinated."

DUT offers free COVID-19 vaccination every Thursday at the Food Court, opposite the Library, Gate 3 on the Steve Biko campus from 08h30 to 15h00. You don't need to make an appointment. Just bring your ID and student/staff card. If you would prefer the Pfizer vaccine to the Johnson & Johnson vaccine being administered, please contact covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za to make an appointment. Enquiries may also be directed to the DUT Clinic on 031 373 3760 in Durban, or to 031 373 6010 or WhatsApp 069 597 4273 in the Midlands.

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

Total number of positive cases: 322

Total number of staff who tested positive: 171

Total number of students who tested positive: 151

Number of new cases to report: 9

Number of new cases (students): 6

Number of new cases (staff): 3

Location of new cases: (in Durban 9 & in PMB 0)

Number of recoveries: 302 (Students 141 & Staff 161)

Total number of deaths: 11 (Students 3 & Staff 8)

Total number of active cases: 9 (Students 6 & Staff 3)

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, this is the time for all of us to strengthen our efforts to prevent COVID-19 from spreading and causing a serious fourth wave. Please take great care and above all, please get vaccinated

Sincerely

DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team

#DUTGetYourJab

#DUTGettingBackToNormal

