

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

28 January 2020

Dear staff and students

DUT TRAVEL ADVISORY ON CHINA

The Department of International Relations and Co-operation has issued a travel warning to South Africans travelling to China. This follows the coronavirus outbreak that has now spread to several other countries, including South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, USA, Great Britain and France amongst others.

DUT advises all staff and students who intend to travel to China to please consider postponing their plans until further notice. You should also monitor international media for news on possible travel restrictions and you can visit the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) website <http://www.nicd.ac.za>.

Whilst a large area of China is currently under strict travel restrictions, careful attention should be placed on travel bans to the city of Wuhan and Hubei province in central China.

Medical experts have announced that the incubation period for the virus is up to 14 days, which means that the symptoms could present themselves two weeks after infection.

Instructions given to those who need to travel, to the affected regions of China, according to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, you should:

- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Avoid animals (alive or dead), animal markets and products that come from animals (such as uncooked meat).
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Older adults and travellers with underlying health issues may be at risk for more severe diseases and should discuss travel to Wuhan with their healthcare provider.

If you have travelled to China in the last 14 days and you feel sick with fever, cough or experience difficulty breathing, according to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, you should:

- Seek medical care immediately. Before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room, call ahead and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.
- Avoid contact with others.

- Do not travel while sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

If you are hosting guests from China and if they are feeling sick with a fever, cough or have difficulty breathing, please seek urgent medical attention.

The South African government has also confirmed that there is increased surveillance and checks on all travellers from China and Asia entering the country at all major border points.

Finally, for those who want to clarify the situation in China before their planned travel, please liaise with our mission in China. You can contact the South African Embassy in Beijing on +86 10 8532 000 or our Consulate in Shanghai +86 21 5359 4977.

Sincerely

DUT Communications Team

