

## UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

27 November 2020

Dear staff and students

### UPDATE: COVID-19

The DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team has received multiple reports this week that a number of people on campus and in residence, are refusing to wear their face masks. This defiance goes against the public health standards and violates the guidelines that all students, staff and visitors must follow, on campus or in residence. It is disappointing to know that some people arrive at the gate with their masks on and then remove their masks, after they enter campus or residence. We remind you that it is **compulsory** to wear a face mask on campus and in public spaces in residence. COVID-19 is still active in South Africa and people are dying daily. Please, be responsible. Wear your mask!

Globally, more than 61.4 million people have now been infected with SARS-CoV-2. Yesterday, South Africa confirmed 3069 new infections. Last night, we were 35<sup>th</sup> in the world for new daily infections. South Africa remains 9<sup>th</sup> in the world for total recoveries. Sadly, 88 people in South Africa passed on from COVID-19 related medical conditions yesterday. Therefore, we must continue to work together to fight this disease and to protect our health and safety.

Here are the latest COVID-19 statistics for DUT:

|                                      |                                |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Total number of people infected:     | 125                            |
| Total number of staff (positive):    | 60                             |
| Total number of students (positive): | 65                             |
| Total number of recoveries:          | 113 (60 students and 53 staff) |
| Total number of deaths:              | 2 (1 student and 1 staff)      |
| Total number of active cases:        | 10                             |
| Number of new infections:            | 8 (this week)                  |
| Number of new infections (staff):    | 5 (this week)                  |
| Number of new infections (students): | 3 (this week)                  |
| Location of new infections: (DBN)    | 8                              |
| Location of new infections: (PMB)    | 0                              |
| Has contact tracing commenced:       | Yes                            |
| Has physical disinfection commenced: | Yes                            |

The COVID-19 Response Task Team is extremely concerned that the number of new infections within the DUT community is increasing. As detailed on the previous page, we had eight new positive cases that were reported over the last seven days. We hope and pray for the safe return to good health of our staff and students who are currently fighting this disease.

The reality is that the COVID-19 pandemic has had physical and mental repercussions on a number of people. If you are experiencing depression, anxiety or any other emotional difficulties, please reach out for assistance. Free, compassionate, counselling and support is available to DUT staff and students as follows:

1. If you are a **student** and need mental health support, please contact Candice on [candicel@dut.ac.za](mailto:candicel@dut.ac.za) or Thokozani on [thokozanis1@dut.ac.za](mailto:thokozanis1@dut.ac.za) for online counselling. You can also call 031 373 2266 in Durban or 033 845 8900/8828 in the Midlands.
2. Students should also visit this webpage on the DUT website for more information on Student Counselling and Health: [https://www.dut.ac.za/support\\_services/student\\_services\\_and\\_development/student\\_counselling\\_and\\_health/](https://www.dut.ac.za/support_services/student_services_and_development/student_counselling_and_health/)
3. If you are a **staff** member, please feel free to email Samantha on [rajcooms@dut.ac.za](mailto:rajcooms@dut.ac.za) for counselling on various platforms. You can also call 031 373 2025 or email [NobantuB@dut.ac.za](mailto:NobantuB@dut.ac.za) for assistance.
4. Mental health support is available 24 hours a day to both students and staff. Please call the tollfree Higher Health national hotline on 0800 36 36 36 or SMS 43336.

To avoid congestion and delays at our campus entrances, please ensure that you always complete the **HealthCheck** online screening form **before** arriving on campus. There are three ways for you to access the online form:

- a. <https://healthcheck.higherhealth.ac.za>
- b. WhatsApp to contacts: 0600 110 000 / <https://wa.me/27600110000?text=hi>
- c. Dial in to HealthCheck tollfree on \*134\*832\*2#

You can only proceed to enter campus when you have received the **green light** after completing the online form.

Please show your device, permit and student/staff card to the campus security team at the entrance gate and you will then be granted access to our campus. Kindly remember that the HealthCheck online form must be completed for each daily visit/attendance on campus.

Please view the DUT COVID-19 webpage by clicking on this link:

<https://www.dut.ac.za/coronavirus/>

Kindly review the DUT COVID-19 Information Booklet by clicking on this link:

<https://www.dut.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/COVID-19-Information-Booklet-07-09-2020.pdf>

## COVID-19 protocols are still in place at DUT

Whilst South Africa is currently on Alert Level 1 in the “State of Disaster” - the DUT community must continue to take the COVID-19 pandemic very seriously.

Therefore, we want to remind you that the following rules still apply:

- Always wear a mask on campus and in communal areas in residence.
- Please keep a minimum of 1.5 metres away from other people and avoid large groups.
- Thoroughly wash your hands for a minimum of 20 seconds with water and soap.
- Sanitise frequently touched surface areas.
- Do not touch your face with unwashed hands.
- Please sneeze, cough or yawn into your bent elbow, even if you are using a mask.
- Thoroughly wash your cloth face mask after each use.
- Disposable masks should only be used once.

Thank you for helping us to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 in our country. Please remain alert at all times and do everything within your ability to stay safe, to **wear your mask**, to **wash your hands**, to **avoid large groups**, to protect your family and your friends and to reduce the infection rate and to prevent more people from passing on in our country. We cannot win this war without you...

Sincerely

DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team

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