



DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INVUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE

STATEMENT FROM THE DUT COVID-19 RESPONSE TASK TEAM

29 June 2020

Dear staff and students

SECOND CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19

Last Friday, we informed you that one of our staff members in the Mechanical Engineering Department on the Steve Biko campus had tested positive for COVID-19. Since then, the University has followed the relevant protocols in terms of sanitizing the affected areas and contact tracing, as per the Public Health requirements.

We regret to confirm that a second staff member from the Mechanical Engineering Department has tested positive for **asymptomatic** symptoms of COVID-19. This means that that the staff member was exposed to the virus and has already developed antibodies for it. The staff member does not currently have the virus but following medical advice, will be in isolation for the next week.

The DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team has activated the protocols for positive cases on campus and the relevant authorities have been notified.

We wish both of our colleagues a safe and successful return to good health.

The University once again reminds all staff and students to follow the published guidelines to limit the spread of COVID-19. Protect yourself and others from infection, by washing your hands regularly with soap and water or by using an alcohol (minimum 70%) based hand sanitiser frequently.

It is imperative that you use a face mask whenever you leave your place of residence. We remind all staff, students and visitors that the use of a **face mask is compulsory**, at all times, whenever you are on campus or in residence. If you do not have a face mask, you will not be granted access to University property. Please follow the social and physical distancing rules, which means that you should maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet from the next person. Please avoid gathering in groups. We strongly advise that you do not shake hands with people and refrain from hugging one another. This is part of the physical distancing guidelines.

Importantly, all staff and students must use the **HealthCheck** online screening form **before** you arrive on campus.

Please use this link to access the HealthCheck online form: <https://healthcheck.higherhealth.ac.za/>

If you do not use the HealthCheck online form, you will need to undergo manual screening at the entry gate on campus. All staff, students and visitors must be screened before entering campus. The manual screening process does take time, so please expect delays at the gate, if you do decide to not use the HealthCheck online screening form.

The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or vapor/discharge from the nose/mouth when an infected person coughs or sneezes, so it's important that you also practice respiratory etiquette (for example, by coughing and sneezing into a flexed elbow, even if you have your mask on). If you are using a tissue, please safely dispose of used tissues in the bin. Then wash your hands with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser.

The World Health Organisation has advised the following COVID-19 symptoms:

Most common symptoms:

- fever
- dry cough
- tiredness



Less common symptoms:

- aches and pains
- sore throat
- diarrhoea
- conjunctivitis
- headache
- loss of taste or smell
- a rash on skin, or discolouration of fingers or toes

Serious symptoms:

- difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- chest pain or pressure
- loss of speech or movement

Please seek immediate medical attention if you have serious symptoms. Always call before visiting your doctor or health facility. On average, it takes five to six days from when someone is infected with the virus for symptoms to show. However, it can also take up to 14 days.

We all need to work together to help combat the spread of the coronavirus. The situation in our country remains serious, with thousands of new COVID-19 infections daily. All staff and students have a shared responsibility to protect the health and safety of the entire University community.

Finally, last Monday we issued a statement to you that included information on the correct use of a face mask. If you have not read the announcement, please familiarize yourself with it:

[COVID-19 Task-Team Communique 22062020](#)

All of the relevant coronavirus information is available on the COVID-19 webpage on the DUT website. This page has been active since March 2020:

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

Please stay safe during these challenging times.

Sincerely

DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team

