



DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INVUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE

UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCEMENT

26 June 2020

Dear Staff and Students

STAFF MEMBER TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

We are writing to officially inform you that a DUT staff member has tested positive for COVID-19. The staff member is based in the Department of Mechanical Engineering in Durban.

Upon receiving the news last night, the University immediately activated the COVID-19 Outbreak Response Protocol. The DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team is currently working with the Head of Department from Mechanical Engineering, to conduct a detailed investigation and to compile a report as per the Higher Health Guidelines from DHET.

In addition, we have taken the following corrective measures:

- Requested confirmation of the positive test results.
- Tracing of all of the close contacts (staff and students) of the patient in the Department, to place them in self-quarantine and to advise affected colleagues to work remotely. For those who may be symptomatic, we strongly recommend that they go for testing as soon as possible.
- Disinfection of the affected areas that the staff member had used.

From our initial investigation, it appears that the staff member was on duty on Wednesday, 17 June 2020 and on Thursday, 18 June 2020. The staff member has apparently not been on campus since then.

We have now requested that the *Contacts List Form* be compiled with a detailed report - and to institute further measures to protect staff, students and the campus.

We urge all colleagues and students who are on campus to remain calm. Those who were in contact with the staff member will be approached and informed about the situation.

The University reminds all staff and students to please wear a face mask whenever you leave your place of residence. You must use your face mask at all times whilst you are on campus or in residence.

Please also follow physical distancing guidelines, avoid public gatherings and more importantly, wash your hands with water and soap regularly and use a minimum of 70% alcohol-based hand sanitizer. You should also clean and sanitize frequently touched surface areas.

For those staff members and students accessing our campuses and residence, it is important that you use the HealthCheck online screening form daily, before you arrive on campus. It is compulsory for all staff, students and visitors to be screened before entering University property.

Finally, we wish our colleague a safe and successful recovery from COVID-19. Please keep our colleague in your thoughts and prayers...

Sincerely

DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team



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