

## **DUT COVID-19 OUTBREAK RESPONSE & CONTROL PLAN**

29 July 2020

### **Introduction**

The primary objective in outbreak management is to protect public health by identifying the source and implementing control measures to prevent further spread or recurrence of the infection. The investigation and management of outbreaks and implementation of necessary control measures requires multidisciplinary expertise and collaboration. This operational guidance sets out in detail the roles of the key departments, the responsibilities of their key personnel and the agreed procedures which can ensure successful implementation and control of the outbreak.

Overall responsibility for managing outbreaks is co-ordinated by the COVID-19 Task Team (TT) and shared by all departments, divisions, sections and service providers who are members of this Outbreak Response & Control Team.

### **1. Background**

In the current phase of community transmission of COVID-19 in South Africa, all facilities are required to have contingency plans for swift outbreak response. As per discussion with NICD, an outbreak is defined as 1 or more staff OR students, testing positive for COVID-19.

### **2. Purpose:**

This plan describes the outbreak response for investigation and containment of COVID-19 outbreaks.

### **3. Outbreak Response Team:**

Each of the DUT Campuses must establish an Outbreak Response Team per Campus, with the following key persons:

Clinic manager / sister of affected campus - Convenor

SHE Staff member – Co-Convenor

Health and safety officers at Departmental & Faculty levels

Infrastructure Division staff member

Estates / Building Systems Manager

Private Partners: Bidvest Services Cleaning Supervisor/Manager

Others

#### 4. Outbreak investigation steps:

##### 4.1 Contact Tracing - create list of Contacts (per NICD definition) in the last 10 days:

- Staff
- Students
- Others

##### 4.2 Contact Screening and Testing

For each contact establish the following:

- a) Timing of exposure (When it occurred)
- b) Duration of exposure (> 15 minutes) and proximity to index case (<2meters)
- c) Is the contact symptomatic?
- d) **Establish Risk – as per the Risk Assessment Form**
- e) Based on the above – determine who requires testing/quarantine and delayed testing/observation, continued work/study with daily self-monitoring.

**Risk Assessment as per enclosed Form is critical in mapping the next steps in containing spread; hence HOD's, Deans and Line Managers have to act swiftly as per this Protocol to contain it.**

Communicate to the Health Clinic and eThekweni district Clinics at Lancers & Beatrice St: List of contacts to be tested and timing of tests

Activate the COVID screening call roster of Volunteers and Staff.

For large outbreaks (> 5 – 10 Staff / Students testing positive) additional staff / volunteers will be allocated to assist with contact tracing within the institution.

##### 4.3 Environmental controls/ Deep Cleaning:

Determine which areas require terminal cleaning e.g. Offices / Meeting Rooms/ Residence suites

Communicate to Systems Manager for relay to Facilities Management for cleaning & disinfection.

As per National IPC Guidelines: Implementation Manual the Health & Safety Team should be available as a resource, to carry out final checks on the cleaning and disinfection and to give final clearance for occupancy.

##### 4.4 Containment:

The Task Team (TT) in consultation with AEM to determine cancellation of lectures, academic and research activities etc. and inform necessary Deans, HOD's & Line Managers of the affected Units

- Closure of affected areas to be sanitized / deep cleaned.
- Restrict Staff/ student movement.
- Staff that clinically require admission will be referred to the Public or Private health sector.

#### 4.5 Quarantine/Isolation of Staff:

Staff / students who do not need admission for clinical / medical reasons, will be encouraged to quarantine/isolate in their homes if possible, for a period of 10 days.

If home quarantine/isolation is not possible for social reasons:

- Refer to government designated facilities for quarantine/isolation.
- Refer to private facilities designated for quarantine/isolation if applicable as per staffs' medical aid.

#### 4.6 Communication/Reporting:

Once the Clinic Sister has verified the information, she will declare an outbreak and activate & notify the Outbreak Response Team

- TT to inform District CDC – Mr. L Mbuthu or District Manager – verbally and by email:
- notification forms for index case/s – if applicable
- Copy of result if tested privately
- Outbreak response team will brief TT daily on status of Outbreak.
- Sister to provide regular updates to the Senior Management.

#### 5. Recovery Plan:

For a small outbreak (involving one section and < 5 cases):

Contingency plans will be made by respective Managers to ensure continuity of services while the process of cleaning is undertaken; expected to take between 24 to 48 hours to complete including a check to verify that the areas can be reopened.

- o For a large outbreak (involving multiple sections / departments and >5 cases) the affected units will be closed.

#### 6. Preparedness: Communication of circulars to staff & students

The TT will prepare the appropriate response in consultation with Management.

For those awaiting transfer to a Department of Health Isolation or Quarantine Facility,

DUT has temporary isolation facilities as follows:

Ritson campus: Faculty of Health Sciences practical room, main car park, next to the staircase leading to Mansfield Hall. Please call ahead, to inform the Clinic on 031 373 6010 or 031 373 2223. Do not arrive at the facility unannounced. Please notify the Clinic first.

City Campus: next to cafeteria. To inform Clinic nurse on extension 6002.

- DUT COVID-19 email enquiries, questions and/or comments can be emailed to:  
[covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za](mailto:covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za)
- DUT COVID-19 Hotline (office hours):  
**031 373 3760**

# OUT-BREAK INVESTIGATION: ASSESSMENT OF CONTACTS FOR LEVEL OF RISK EXPOSURE (PER NICD GUIDELINE)

Name of Person completing this form: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Designation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and details of the person who came into contact with a COVID-19 positive person or PUI	Designation	Where did the contact occur?	Date of contact	Was duration of contact with positive person > 15 minutes? (Y/N)	Was distance from patient <1 meter)? (Y/N)	Was COVID positive person wearing a face mask? (Y/N)	Was contact wearing mask (Y/N)	Is the contact symptomatic? (Y/N). How long (days).	Comments	Final Assessment: High risk / Low risk of exposure?