

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

31 July 2020

Dear staff and students

COVID-19 UPDATE

The COVID-19 recovery rate in South Africa continues to increase positively and it currently stands at 64%, which translates to 309 601.

However, the infection rate is still high. To date, the country has conducted 2 918 049 tests and of those tests, a total of 482 169 confirmed COVID-19 cases have been recorded with 11 046 new cases announced yesterday. Regrettably, there have been 7 812 COVID-19 related deaths in South Africa.

Although infection and death rate statistics continue to rise, some people continue to ignore the lockdown regulations and public health guidelines. Some communities and individuals are not adhering to the prescribed COVID-19 and lockdown protocols, of wearing face masks, hand hygiene and physical distancing. We urge all staff and students to follow the published precautionary guidelines at all times.

Here is the latest COVID-19 statistics for DUT:

Total number of cases:	64	
Total number of staff (positive):	37	
Total number of students (positive)	27	
Total number of recoveries:	7	(3 students and 4 staff)
Total number of deaths:	0	
Number of new cases this week:	12	
Number of new cases (staff):	5	
Number of new cases (students):	7	
Location of new cases: DBN	12	
Location of new cases: PMB	0	

Earlier this week, the University through DUT PinBoard (staff email system), DUT4LIFE (student email accounts), Staff emails and DUT Website, under Highlights (Homepage) and on the COVID-19 webpage, shared the DUT COVID-19 Outbreak Response and Control Plan. The plan can be accessed by clicking on the following link: <https://www.dut.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/DUT-COVID-OUTBREAK-RESPONSE-protocol-as-at-29-July-contacts-form.pdf>

We reiterate that whilst we have had a number of staff and students test positive over the last four weeks, our response teams have been successfully managing the situation. Contact tracing is ongoing and the affected physical spaces have been disinfected, in compliance with the response guidelines. We also want to inform you that our campus is being cleaned twice a day and sanitized regularly.

You can assist and play a positive role by adopting the published precautions. This will help limit and prevent the further spread of COVID-19:

- Wear a face mask whenever you leave your place of residence.
- Practice physical and social distancing, stay a minimum of 1.5 metres apart from other people.
- Do not gather in groups.
- Wash your hands regularly, using water and soap for a minimum of 20 seconds.
- Disinfect frequently touched surface areas.

Please remember to use the **HealthCheck** online screening form **before** you enter the DUT campus. <https://healthcheck.higherhealth.ac.za/>

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For those who cannot use the HealthCheck online form, manual screening is taking place at all campus entrances. The manual screening does take time, so please be prepared for delays.

We also remind our students and staff that the use of a **face mask** is **compulsory** whilst you are on campus or in residence.

DUT has a dedicated email address for all COVID-19 related enquiries. You can email your questions and comments to: covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za

A COVID-19 telephone hotline service is in place at DUT. The hotline will be staffed during office hours, Monday to Friday. The telephone number is: **031 373 3760**.

After hours and on weekends, staff and students may contact 0600 123 456 (via What's App); or the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) Hotline on 0800 029 999; or telephone the National COVID-19 Call Centre on 012 337 1997. You can also access COVID-19 related information on the webpage: <https://www.dut.ac.za/coronavirus/>

We pray for our staff and students who are fighting COVID-19 and we eagerly await their safe and successful return to good health.

We convey our sincere condolences to the DUT community, who may have lost a member of their family or a friend, due to COVID-19. Our prayers are with those who are taking care of their loved ones who are infected and we extend our support to those who are affected directly or indirectly by COVID-19 related deaths.

Please stay safe and remember to follow the advice to wear a mask, wash your hands, sanitize frequently touched surface areas and importantly, to observe social and physical distancing.

Sincerely

DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team





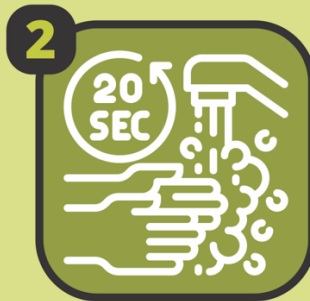
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PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS FROM CORONAVIRUS WASH YOUR HANDS



Apply soap & wet your hands with clean water.
Turn off tap.



Lather your hands with the soap & scrub for 20 seconds, the time it takes to sing Happy Birthday twice.



Wash between your fingers.



Wash between your thumbs.



Scrub the back of your hands.



Scrub wrists and forearms.
Turn on tap & rinse with clean water.
Turn tap off.

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK NATIONAL HOTLINE:

0 800 029 999

08H00 - 16H00 (MONDAY - FRIDAY)