

**UNIVERSITY STATEMENT**

24 July 2020

Dear staff and students

**COVID-19 UPDATE**

Last night, President Ramaphosa announced that the total number of people infected with COVID-19 in the country had increased to 408 052. This was an increase of 13 104 from Wednesday evening. Sadly, 153 new deaths were reported yesterday and the Department of Health confirmed that the total number of people with COVID-19 who have passed on in South Africa, now stands at 6093. Thankfully, 236 260 people have made a successful recovery. South Africa currently ranks fifth in the world for total infections and yesterday, we were fourth in the world for new infections.

Despite these alarming statistics and the loss of life, there are still people who have taken a decision to ignore the lockdown regulations and the public health guidelines. Disappointingly, they are not following the prescribed protocols regarding face masks, hygiene and physical distancing.

Here is the latest COVID-19 statistics for DUT:

Total number of cases:	52
Total number of staff (positive):	31
Total number of students (positive)	21
Total number of recoveries:	6 (3 students and 3 staff)
Total number of deaths:	0
Number of new cases this week:	21
Number of new cases (staff):	11
Number of new cases (students):	10
Location of new cases: DBN	15
Location of new cases: PMB	6

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

You would have read the announcements on the DUT PinBoard (staff) and DUT4life (student) email accounts this week, that we tragically lost three students. We are devastated by the loss of life and we have conveyed our sympathies to the family and friends of the deceased. We should also note that these tragedies were not related to COVID-19. Therefore, we urge people to please refrain from spreading rumours and making false claims about those who have passed on.

Whilst we have had a number of staff and students test positive over the last three 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/>



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](mailto: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/>

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

**DUT**  
DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY  
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**PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS FROM CORONAVIRUS**  
**HOW NOT TO WEAR A MASK**

- Do not wear your mask under your mouth.
- Do not pull your mask under your chin even to drink.
- Do not wear your mask on your elbow.
- Do not hang your mask from one ear.

Remember to always use proper hand hygiene before putting on and taking off your mask.

**CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK NATIONAL HOTLINE:**  
**0 800 029 999**  
08H00 - 16H00 (MONDAY - FRIDAY)