

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

07 August 2020

Dear staff and students

COVID-19 UPDATE

The COVID-19 recovery rate in South Africa continues to increase and currently, 387 316 people have made successful recoveries. There are now concerns that the infection rate in KwaZulu-Natal is rising rapidly, with the province expected to peak in the next few weeks. Therefore, we continue to urge all students and staff to please follow the published precautionary guidelines at all times.

To date, the country has conducted 3 149 807 tests, with a total of 538 184 confirmed COVID-19 positive cases (as of yesterday). Regrettably, there are 9 604 COVID-19 related deaths in South Africa. On a sad note, DUT is mourning the loss of Mr Suren Harilal, who passed on as a result of COVID-19 related complications on Wednesday. We offer our most sincere condolences to his family, friends, colleagues and to the Faculty of Management Sciences. We also further extend our deepest condolences to the DUT community, who may have lost a member of their family or a friend. Our prayers are with those who are taking care of their loved ones who are sick and we extend our support to those who are affected directly or indirectly by COVID-19 related deaths.

Here is the latest COVID-19 statistics for DUT:

Total number of cases:	74
Total number of staff (positive):	39
Total number of students (positive)	35
Total number of recoveries:	13 (9 students and 4 staff)
Total number of deaths:	1
Number of new cases this week:	10
Number of new cases (staff):	2
Number of new cases (students):	8
Location of new cases: DBN	8
Location of new cases: PMB	2

Has contact tracing commenced for new cases: Yes

Has disinfection of areas commenced for new cases: Yes

The DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team is very concerned by reports that there are some members of staff who still insist on not adhering to the rules that regulate access to the University, especially, when exposed to or having being tested positive for, COVID-19. We would like to reiterate that the government regulations issued in respect of COVID-19 are mandatory and it is a punishable offence, if there is no compliance. The University will not hesitate to act accordingly, should someone be found guilty of violating the guidelines and Level 3 restrictions.

Furthermore, whilst we have had a number of staff and students test positive over the last few 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 by consistently adhering to the COVID-19 regulations and by respecting the rules that regulate access to our University. You are also urged to 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

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.

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

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)