

**UNIVERSITY STATEMENT**

23 April 2021

Dear Staff and Students

This week, KwaZulu-Natal is once again the epicentre of the COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa, unfortunately leading the country's nine provinces in respect of new infections and deaths. As the World Health Organisation (WHO) Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus warned, the coronavirus pandemic is "a long way from being over." In fact, globally, cases have increased for seven consecutive weeks and deaths have increased for four weeks. Since the pandemic commenced last year, more than 145 million people have been infected and over 3 million people have sadly passed on. South Africa has seen a 6% increase in cases and a 7% increase in deaths, when compared to last week.

As Dr Ghebreyesus pointed out, while vaccines are essential and effective, they are not the only tools that we have at our disposal. We know that three key non-pharmaceutical interventions work to save lives and reduce spreading the virus. These are face masks, physical distancing and hand hygiene. Together with good ventilation, avoiding crowds and other gatherings involving close contact with people, these combined measures could save lives: our own, and the lives of those who we love and care about, who may be more vulnerable to serious illness or death.

Here is the latest on COVID-19 statistics for the DUT community:

TOTAL NUMBER OF POSITIVE CASES:	<b>244</b>
TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF WHO TESTED POSITIVE:	<b>129</b>
TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO TESTED POSITIVE:	<b>115</b>
NUMBER OF NEW CASES TO REPORT:	<b>0</b>
NUMBER OF NEW CASES (Students):	<b>0</b>
NUMBER OF NEW CASES (Staff):	<b>0</b>
LOCATION OF NEW CASES:	<b>Durban 0 &amp; PMB 0</b>
NUMBER OF RECOVERIES:	<b>234</b> (112 students & 122 staff)
TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS:	<b>10</b> (7 staff & 3 students)
TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVE CASES:	<b>0</b> (0 staff & 0 students)
CONTACT TRACING COMMENCED FOR NEW CASES:	<b>No new cases reported</b>
DISINFECTION OF AREAS FOR NEW CASES:	<b>No new cases reported</b>

## Please note DUT's compulsory COVID-19 guidelines and precautions

- **Physical distancing** – please remain a minimum of 1.5 metres away from any other person at all times on campus, in residence and in public.
- **Wear a mask** – please wear a mask that covers your nose, mouth and chin at all times on campus, in residence and in public.
- **Clean your hands** – please sanitise your hands when entering campus and continue to clean your hands regularly throughout the day. Do not touch your face with unwashed hands.
- **Sanitise/clean** – please clean/sanitise frequently-touched surfaces.
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## Failure by a student or staff member on DUT premises to

- Wear a mask securely covering the nose, mouth and chin;
- Maintain a minimum distance of 1.5 metres between themselves and any other individual; or
- Sanitise their hands at entrances to campuses and venues...

may result in disciplinary and/or criminal action, which could result in a fine, suspension, expulsion and/or a criminal record.

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## DUT's daily COVID-19 protocol

Please be aware that only those students and staff members who have been invited to come onto campus, and who have a valid entry permit, will be granted access to campus. No 'walk-in' registration is permitted.

### I. Before coming to campus:

Please complete the **HealthCheck COVID-19 screening form** every day **before** leaving your place of residence. This form is to check for symptoms of COVID-19 and helps to prevent the disease from spreading. Please be completely honest in your responses to the questions before attempting to gain access to campus.

You can access the HealthCheck form in three ways:

- Dial HealthCheck on \*134\*832\*2# (this is a **free call**).

- Go to: <https://healthcheck.higherhealth.ac.za>
- Add 0600 110 000 / <https://wa.me/27600110000?text=hi> (to your WhatsApp contacts).

If you get an **orange light** or a **red light**, please do not proceed to campus. Instead, please call the COVID-19 Hotline on 031 373 3760 or 031 373 2223 or email [covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za](mailto:covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za) for advice on what to do. Please also keep your Head of Department, lecturer or Residence Advisor informed.

If you get a **green light** on HealthCheck, wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water, put on a mask covering your nose, mouth and chin, and proceed to campus.

## 2. When you reach the campus entrance, please:

- Allow the Security Officer to take your temperature. A higher than usual body temperature can be an indicator of fever, and fever can be a symptom of COVID-19.
- Show your student card, your entry permit, and your HealthCheck result to the Security Officer.
- Sanitise your hands at the entrance.
- Keep at least 1.5 metres away from other people to minimise transmission of COVID-19. This is one of the most effective measures you can take to prevent becoming infected or infecting others. Remember, anyone can have COVID-19, and some people don't develop symptoms.
- Please avoid shaking hands, fist bumps, hugging, kissing or any close contact with others. Avoiding close contact like this can significantly reduce transmission of COVID-19.
- DUT has a **#NoMaskNoEntry** policy which means that no entry will be granted to a person not wearing a mask securely covering the nose, mouth and chin. Buffs or masks with valves are not acceptable as they can spread COVID-19.

## How to get help if you have COVID-19 symptoms or test positive for COVID-19

- If you suspect that you may be COVID-19 positive, or if you develop related symptoms, please contact the **DUT Student Health Clinic** via **WhatsApp** on **067 370 4482** or **083 783 7057** during office hours for medical advice from a professional nurse.

- If you live in residence, please inform your Residence Advisor immediately for advice. Please also inform your Head of Department or lecturer as soon as possible.
- If you develop severe symptoms such as difficulty breathing, shortness of breath or high fever, please call the DUT Clinics as detailed above, during office hours on weekdays or call 0600 123 456 (via WhatsApp).
- Or call the **National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) Hotline on 0800 029 999**; or telephone the **COVID-19 National Call Centre on 012 337 1997** for assistance.
- If you are tested, please send your COVID-19 test results to your Head of Department or lecturer for forwarding to the COVID-19 hotline on [covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za](mailto:covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za). If you have had COVID-19 and you have quarantined for 10 days, no negative test is required for you to return to campus.

### Where to find further information and advice on COVID-19

- Visit the DUT COVID-19 webpage at <https://www.dut.ac.za/coronavirus/> for further information.
- For enquiries and advice on COVID-19, please email [covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za](mailto:covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za) or telephone the DUT COVID-19 Task Team's hotline during office hours on 031 373 3760 or 031 373 2223.
- After hours, staff and students may contact 0600 123 456 (via WhatsApp); or the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) Hotline on 0800 029 999; or telephone the COVID-19 National Call Centre on 012 337 1997.
- For free, **24-hour mental health support** and advice, please call the Higher Health, toll-free hotline on **0800 36 36 36** or **SMS 43336**.

### How to find mental health care support

Many people are finding the COVID-19 pandemic and our new way of life overwhelmingly stressful. If you feel you need support to help you manage anxiety, depression, social or study problems, GBV or other difficult situations, please make use of the following services. They are strictly confidential.

### You can speak to a DUT Psychologist

Students can make a booking for online counselling by emailing [Counsbookingdbn@dut.ac.za](mailto:Counsbookingdbn@dut.ac.za). Otherwise, please call 031 373 2266 in Durban or 033 845 8900 / 845 8828 in the Midlands during office hours.

Staff may contact the Employee Wellness Programme for counselling and support by emailing [ewp@dut.ac.za](mailto:ewp@dut.ac.za), or call 031 373 2025 / 373 2873 during office hours.

### Go online

[https://www.dut.ac.za/support\\_services/student\\_services\\_and\\_development/student\\_counselling\\_and\\_health/](https://www.dut.ac.za/support_services/student_services_and_development/student_counselling_and_health/) for more information on Student Counselling and Health.

### You can find 24-hour mental health support toll-free

For **24-hour, toll-free** mental health assistance, please call the **Higher Health** national hotline:

**0800 36 36 36** or **SMS 43336**.

We once again urge you to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the country. Please remain alert and always wear your mask when you leave your place of residence, abide by the physical distancing guidelines, avoid gathering in groups and steer clear of crowds, practice healthy hand hygiene and sanitise frequently touched surface areas. Remember, we have a joint responsibility to ensure that health and wellbeing of the DUT community and we must work together to prevent a third wave of infections in South Africa.

Finally, we are aware of false statements sharing fake news related to COVID-19 that is being circulated electronically. We remind all students and staff to only rely on official University announcements that are published on the COVID-19 webpage on the DUT website, <https://www.dut.ac.za/coronavirus/>. Our University statements will never prompt you to download other files to view the announcements. If you receive a communiqué and need to verify its authenticity, please visit the DUT COVID-19 webpage to view the official statements.

Sincerely

DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team