

**UNIVERSITY STATEMENT**

16 July 2021

**COVID-19 RESPONSE TASK TEAM WEEKLY STATEMENT**

Dear staff and students

As KwaZulu-Natal and other parts of South Africa are gripped by looting and violence, it is important to remember that we are in the middle of a pandemic that has already claimed 65972 souls in our country. Yesterday, 16435 new cases were reported and 377 people passed due to COVID-19 related complications in South Africa.

Although current official COVID-19 infection rates are seemingly lower than they were a week ago, this is most likely because there were fewer people being tested, due to the riots and unrest. Apart from the criminal intent, it was extremely disturbing to see large groups of people gathering and interacting without wearing masks - and without social distancing. One of the likely outcomes will be a huge increase of COVID-19 infections in the weeks ahead. Therefore, we must take every possible precaution to prevent ourselves and others from contracting COVID-19, which remains a potentially life-threatening disease that affects all ages.

**Here are the latest COVID-19 statistics for the DUT community:**

Total number of positive cases:	<b>268</b>
Total number of staff who tested positive:	<b>143</b>
Total number of students who tested positive:	<b>125</b>
Number of new cases to report:	<b>6</b>
Number of new cases (student):	<b>1</b>
Number of new cases (staff):	<b>5</b>
Location of new cases:	<b>5 Durban &amp; 1 PMB</b>
Number of recoveries:	<b>249 (120 students &amp; 129 staff)</b>
Total number of deaths:	<b>10 (7 staff &amp; 3 students)</b>
Total number of active cases:	<b>9 (8 staff &amp; 1 student)</b>
Has contact tracing commenced for new cases?	<b>YES</b>
Has disinfection taken place for new cases?	<b>YES (where applicable)</b>

We pray that those who are fighting the disease make a safe and successful recovery and return to good health.

## **Vaccination programme on hold but now open to over 35s**

Vaccination is now open to everyone aged 35 and over. However, due to the current situation in KwaZulu-Natal, the public hospital vaccination programme has been put on hold. DUT, as a result, cannot arrange vaccinations for qualifying members of the DUT community.

This is a temporary situation, and the COVID-19 Response Task Team will continue with its vaccination programme in partnership with King Edward VIII Hospital as soon as possible. If you would like to be vaccinated, please register on the Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS) by going to <https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za/#/>

Then, please register with DUT's vaccination programme by clicking on the following link:

[https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=0TAZS\\_QStUC0jL2GEXQp2MYOHRODTRxPgX9my3TlkXtURjRNSzRGVFc4TI daNEYxSUwyNIRITTNKRC4u](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=0TAZS_QStUC0jL2GEXQp2MYOHRODTRxPgX9my3TlkXtURjRNSzRGVFc4TI daNEYxSUwyNIRITTNKRC4u)

The DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team will provide you with an appointment for vaccination when the vaccination programme re-opens. The vaccination is free of charge. If you are on a medical aid, the vaccination will be paid for through your medical aid. If not, the State will pay for the vaccination.

Note: If you have tested positive for COVID-19, please wait 30 days before vaccination from date of positive test. Please ensure that you have informed DUT of your positive test result.

Note: please wait 30 days between different vaccination, such as between a COVID-19 vaccination and a flu or hepatitis vaccination. This is to ensure the efficacy of the vaccinations.

By getting vaccinated, your risks of serious illness, hospitalisation and dying from COVID-19 are drastically reduced. Not only are you protecting yourself, but you are caring for the health of your loved ones, as well as the broader community. We encourage vaccination in everyone who is eligible, even if you have been infected with COVID-19 in the past. Vaccines save lives!

## **Appeal: Please let us know if you have been vaccinated against COVID-19**

The COVID-19 Response Task Team kindly appeals to DUT staff to complete the following link to let us know what proportion of staff have been vaccinated. This will allow us to further plan our vaccination programme to address the unmet need among those who qualify for vaccination. Your details will remain strictly confidential, and your responses will be used for statistical purposes only. We thank you for your anticipated assistance. Please follow this link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/gPwsb0rWdN>

## DUT's compulsory COVID-19 guidelines

### All persons on DUT property are requested to:

- Wear a mask at all times on campus.
- Social distance by a minimum of 1.5 metres from others.
- Sanitise your hands at entrances to campus and other venues.

Failure to follow these guidelines shall lead to disciplinary and/or criminal action.

### To protect yourself and others, please also:

- Avoid crowded, unventilated spaces, and avoid all gatherings, no matter how small.
- Stay at your place or residence as much as possible. Please keep contact with people outside your household to the absolute minimum.
- Avoid physical contact when interacting with others.

If you test positive for COVID-19, please inform DUT, even if you haven't been on campus

For statistical, surveillance and management purposes, all staff and students are asked to inform DUT if you test positive for COVID-19, even if you have not been on campus or been in contact with anyone from DUT. Your test results will remain confidential. Students in residence are asked to immediately inform your Residence Advisor. Staff members and students not in residence are requested to notify your HOD or Line Manager, who should then inform your Faculty, Division or Department COVID-19 Response Task Team representative. COVID-19 test results can be emailed to [covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za](mailto:covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za).

In conclusion, please be ultra-cautious at this time in an effort to prevent further COVID-19 infections. For maximum safety, please **avoid all gatherings, wear a mask** covering your nose and mouth securely, **stay 1.5 metres from all other persons, clean your hands** frequently with soap and water or with a 70% alcohol solution, and **get vaccinated** against COVID-19 when the opportunity arises.

Please take care and be safe.

Sincerely

**DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team**

## COVID-19 PROTOCOLS & RESOURCES

### If you think you may have COVID-19, please

1. Stay at home or in residence.
2. Contact the DUT Clinics for advice (see WhatsApp numbers below).
3. Inform your Residence Advisor and/or Lecturer/HOD.
4. Rest and drink plenty of fluids.
5. Treat your symptoms, eg take paracetamol (such as Panado) for fever and pain.
6. Wash your hands often with soap and water.
7. Cover your coughs and sneezes with your elbow, not your hand.
8. Stay away from other people to prevent them from becoming infected.
9. If you develop a high fever, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, contact your doctor, the DUT Clinics (see below for WhatsApp numbers) or the COVID-19 Hotline or WhatsApp lines (see below) for assistance.
10. If you do get 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).

### Mental health support for students and staff

Any student or staff member who is having mental health, relationship, study or other difficulties is asked to reach out for help from the services available from DUT and other support organisations. Help is available 24 hours per day.

<b>DUT counselling services for students</b>	<a href="mailto:Counsbookingdbn@dut.ac.za">Counsbookingdbn@dut.ac.za</a> (Durban)  <a href="mailto:Counsellingpmb@dut.ac.za">Counsellingpmb@dut.ac.za</a> (Midlands)	<b>During office hours.</b>
<b>DUT counselling services for staff</b>	<a href="mailto:ewp@dut.ac.za">ewp@dut.ac.za</a>	<b>During office hours.</b>

### 24-hour mental health support services

<b>Higher Health National Hotline</b>	<b>0800 36 36 36 or SMS 43336</b>
<b>South African Depression &amp; Anxiety Group (SADAG)</b>	<b>0800 12 13 14</b>

<a href="#">Lifeline</a>	0861 322 322
South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (SANCA) for alcohol or drug dependence problems	08611 73422

**Important contact numbers for information and advice on COVID-19**

DUT Clinics WhatsApp lines	067 370 4482 / 083 783 7057	During office hours
COVID-19 Hotline	0800 029 999	24 hours
COVID-19 WhatsApp line	0600 12 3456	24 hours
DUT COVID-19 Hotline Email <a href="mailto:covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za">covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za</a>	031 373 3760 / 031 373 2223	During office hours

**Resources on COVID-19 and vaccination**

Official SA government COVID-19 website	<a href="https://sacoronavirus.co.za/">https://sacoronavirus.co.za/</a>
National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD)	<a href="https://www.nicd.ac.za/diseases-a-z-index/covid-19/">https://www.nicd.ac.za/diseases-a-z-index/covid-19/</a>
DUT COVID-19 webpage	<a href="https://www.dut.ac.za/coronavirus/">https://www.dut.ac.za/coronavirus/</a>

**STOP  
THE  
SPREAD**