

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

17 September 2021

COVID-19 RESPONSE TASK TEAM WEEKLY STATEMENT

Dear staff and students

This week, DUT's on-campus COVID-19 vaccination site in Durban vaccinated hundreds of staff and students, in a highly successful vaccination drive held in partnership with the KZN Department of Health. Demand was high enough for services to be extended by a further two days until 15h30 today, 17 September 2021.

But at 08h30 on Monday, it's the turn of Midlands students and staff to get vaccinated. We are delighted to announce that from **20 to 30 September 2021** on certain days, the **Midlands** DUT community can get vaccinated at the **Indumiso** on-campus **vaccination centre**. No appointment will be necessary. Just take your ID and student/staff card and get vaccinated quickly and efficiently by trained professional nurses.

Getting back to "normal"

For nearly 18 months, COVID-19 has meant attending university in a different way: online, without the presence of the lecturers, classmates and colleagues with whom we expect to interact within the university setting. It has been difficult for many students and staff, but there is now hope of returning to some kind of "normal".

If the DUT community gets vaccinated, in 2022 we will be able to go back to holding events that characterise university life: in-person graduations; person-to-person lectures; physical programmes in residences; and much more. A safe environment will mean safely being able to socialise with your friends and family.

So far, South Africa has safely administered over 15 million vaccines. You can be part of restoring our society to a more normal mode of operating by getting vaccinated against COVID-19.

To book an appointment for vaccination, please email your name, ID number and staff/student number to francesh@dut.ac.za

#DUTGetYourJob

South Africa moves to adjusted lockdown level 2

In light of decreasing COVID-19 infections in South Africa as a whole, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced a move to adjusted lockdown level 2 in the national 'State of Disaster' on Sunday.

While this level allows for larger gatherings, we must be mindful of the fact that KwaZulu-Natal currently has thousands more active COVID-19 cases than any other province in the country. This requires us to exercise the utmost caution by adhering to the recommended precautions, and above all, getting vaccinated as soon as possible. Do not wait. A fourth wave of this pandemic is expected in the not too distant future. Keep yourself, your friends and family safe, and get vaccinated.

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

Total number of positive cases:	305	
Total number of staff who tested positive:	168	
Total number of students who tested positive:	137	
Number of new cases to report:	1	
Number of new cases (students):	0	
Number of new cases (staff):	1	
Location of new cases:		in Durban 1 & in PMB 0
Number of recoveries: (students & staff)	291	(Students 133 & Staff 158)
Total number of deaths: (staff & students)	10	(Students 3 & Staff 7)
Total number of active cases: (staff & students)	4	(Students 0 & Staff 4)
Has contact tracing commenced for new cases?	Yes	
Has disinfection taken place for new cases?	Yes	

We pray for the safe return to good health for all those who are fighting the infection.

In conclusion, we once again appeal to the DUT community to follow the basic prevention measures and to get vaccinated as soon as possible. Please **avoid gatherings wherever possible** and **avoid poorly-ventilated venues; wear a mask** covering your nose and mouth securely; **stay a minimum of 1.5 metres from all other persons**; and **clean your hands** frequently with soap and water or with a 70% alcohol-based sanitiser.

Please take care and stay safe.

Sincerely

DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team

#DUTGETYOURJOB





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