

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

1 October 2021

COVID-19 RESPONSE TASK TEAM WEEKLY STATEMENT

Dear staff and students

Last night, President Cyril Ramaphosa, announced the implementation of Lockdown Level 1 in the National 'State of Disaster'. This comes as COVID-19 infections have dropped significantly in South Africa. The new regulations allow larger gatherings, both indoor and outdoor.

The COVID-19 Response Task Team, however, wishes to sound a warning: the COVID-19 pandemic is not over. The most potent reminder of this is that DUT lost a beloved staff member to this dread disease just last week. In addition, experts predict a fourth wave of infections in the near future.

For these reasons, we must not drop our guard with the basic precautions: wearing a mask; social distancing; hand hygiene; avoiding gatherings and, the most powerful protection of all, getting vaccinated as soon as possible.

The most effective and simplest way in which we can return to increased contact activities, is by having at least 60 to 70% of the DUT student and staff population fully vaccinated. This will ensure a high level of immunity and protection, and most importantly, break the chain of transmission of the COVID virus.

DUT begins Vaccine Thursdays

This week, DUT began Vaccine Thursdays, a chance for students, staff and Alumni to get vaccinated against COVID-19 on campus every Thursday through October. The Vaccine Thursdays campaign began yesterday at the Isolempilo Clinic on the Steve Biko campus. Vaccination will be available every Thursday until the end of October. No appointment is necessary, just your staff/student card and ID. The Clinic will be open from 08h30 to 15h00. Don't hesitate. Get vaccinated quickly and efficiently by trained professional nurses. Call 031 373 2223 for further information.

#DUTGetYourJob

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

TOTAL NUMBER OF POSITIVE CASES:	309
TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF WHO TESTED POSITIVE:	168
TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO TESTED POSITIVE:	141
NUMBER OF NEW CASES TO REPORT:	3
NUMBER OF NEW CASES (Students):	3
NUMBER OF NEW CASES (Staff):	0
LOCATION OF NEW CASES:	Durban 3, PMB 0
NUMBER OF RECOVERIES:	295 (Student 134, Staff 161)
Death:	11 (8 staff & 3 student).
Active cases:	3 (3 students & 0 staff)
HAS CONTACT TRACING COMMENCED FOR NEW CASES:	Yes
HAS DISINFECTION OF AREAS COMMENCED FOR NEW CASES:	Yes

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

In conclusion, although larger gatherings are now permitted, we urge you to **avoid crowds and poorly-ventilated venues**. Even small gatherings can become super-spreader events where many people become infected with COVID-19 at once and go on to pass it on to others. Please also continue observe the DUT COVID-19 regulations: **wear a mask** covering your nose and mouth securely when in public, including DUT property; **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. We also urge all members of the DUT community to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

Please take care and stay safe.

Sincerely

DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team

#DUTGetYourJob



DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INYUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE