

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

08 October 2021

COVID-19 RESPONSE TASK TEAM WEEKLY STATEMENT

Dear staff and students

The South African Department of Health and the DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team urge all staff, students and Alumni to please heed the call to **#SaveYourSummer** by getting vaccinated on or before 20 October 2021. If you get vaccinated by this date, you will then be fully vaccinated by the start of the festive period and be much safer to enjoy the end-of-year holiday season.

DUT Management and the COVID-19 Response Task Team are fully committed to increasing mask-to-mask, on-campus, contact teaching and learning sessions and returning to “normal” as soon as possible, subject to all staff and students being 100% vaccinated. Therefore, we urge all unvaccinated members of the DUT community to participate in **Vaccination Thursdays**, the vaccination sessions being hosted at DUT.

DUT Vaccine Thursdays will continue

Last week, DUT launched Vaccine Thursdays, a convenient and easy way for staff, students and Alumni to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Vaccination is available at the Isolempilo Clinic on the Steve Biko campus every Thursday from 08h30 to 15h00 until the end of October. No appointment is necessary, just bring your staff/student card and your ID.

Currently, the clinic is administering the *Johnson & Johnson* vaccine but anyone who would prefer the Pfizer vaccine is welcome to call the clinic during office hours, on 031 373 2223, to make an appointment. Please note that because the Pfizer vaccine comes in vials of six doses each and since these vials cannot be stored at DUT, due to the need for extreme cold storage facilities, an appointment is necessary to prevent wastage and to avoid missing your turn in the queue. Should a person not arrive for their appointment, then their dose of the Pfizer vaccine will be administered to the next person in line, possibly necessitating a wait for more vaccines to be ordered.

Pfizer 2nd dose appointments

If you are due for your second dose of the Pfizer vaccine, we request that you please contact the Isolempilo Clinic during office hours on 031 373 2223 to make an appointment.

In the Midlands, DUT, in partnership with the Department of Health, hosted a very successful vaccination drive from 20 to 30 September 2021. DUT staff and students, as well as students from the nearby Plessislaer TVET College, were vaccinated in their numbers. We are grateful truly to our students, staff and Alumni who have been vaccinated and we thank the Department of Health for assisting us with the vaccination programme in Durban and Pietermaritzburg. **#DUTGetYourJob**



YOU'RE NOT FULLY-VACCINATED UNTIL YOU'VE HAD ALL YOUR SHOTS

Johnson & Johnson vaccine: 1 injection required

Pfizer: 2 injections required, 42 to 60 days apart

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Download your vaccination certificate

If you are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, you can now download your own official COVID-19 Vaccine Digital Certificate. Please use this link <https://vaccine.certificate.health.gov.za/> and follow the steps to download and save your personal vaccine certificate and QR code.

You will need to enter your ID number and the code that was sent to you by the Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS) after you were vaccinated. The Minister of Health, Dr Joe Phaahla, has said that the Vaccine Certificate is likely to be used for specific services in the future, such as gaining entry to entertainment and sporting events, as well as to some businesses and possibly, for travel purposes too.

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KZN leads infections in South Africa

Currently, the official COVID-19 infection rates are lower than they have been for a few months. That said, KwaZulu-Natal still accounts for over 40% of the country's active infections. Therefore, must urge you to continue to exercise maximum caution by following the non-pharmaceutical precautions of wearing a mask, social distancing, avoiding crowds, practising good hand hygiene and not frequenting poorly ventilated venues. The single most powerful tool that we currently have at our disposal to prevent severe illness, hospitalisation and death - and to break the chain of infection, is vaccination. So don't hesitate. Vaccinate!



MYTH OR TRUTH?

MYTH:

Masks don't protect you from COVID-19. They're just using them to control us.

TRUTH:

People have been using masks to protect themselves against airborne diseases for 700 years, and nobody has died or become ill because of wearing them. Repeated scientific studies have shown that wearing a mask can powerfully protect you and others against COVID-19.

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

TOTAL NUMBER OF POSITIVE CASES:	311
TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF WHO TESTED POSITIVE:	168
TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO TESTED POSITIVE:	143
NUMBER OF NEW CASES TO REPORT:	2
NUMBER OF NEW CASES (Students):	2
NUMBER OF NEW CASES (Staff):	0
LOCATION OF NEW CASES:	Durban 2 & PMB 0
NUMBER OF RECOVERIES:	295 (134 students & 161 staff)
TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS:	11 (8 staff & 3 students)
TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVE CASES:	5 (5 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.

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In conclusion, please continue to observe the DUT COVID-19 regulations: **wear a mask** covering your nose and mouth securely when in public, including whilst you are on DUT property; **stay a minimum distance of 1.5 metres from all other persons**; and **clean your hands** frequently with soap and water or with a minimum 70% alcohol-based sanitiser. We also urge all members of the DUT community to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

You can review credible and reliable vaccine information *via* the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) website <https://www.nicd.ac.za/what-you-need-to-know-about-vaccines-in-general/> and access the DUT COVID-19 webpage on <https://www.dut.ac.za/coronavirus/>.

Please take care, stay safe and mask up...

Sincerely

DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team

#DUTGetYourJob



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