

## UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

12 November 2021

### DUT COVID-19 RESPONSE TASK TEAM WEEKLY UPDATE

Dear staff and students

It is almost six months since South Africa launched its COVID-19 vaccination programme. In our country, to date, more than 23.4 million people have received at least one dose of the vaccine and 13 million people (22%) are now fully vaccinated. Experts say that while our vaccination coverage is increasing, this is happening at a slow rate. Worldwide, 7.36 billion doses of the vaccine have been administered and 3.16 billion people are currently fully vaccinated.

From today until Sunday, 14 November 2021, South Africa's Department of Health is holding a *Vooma Vaccination Weekend*, where vaccination sites in both the public and private sectors will be open all weekend to vaccinate people against COVID-19. The vaccines will be administered free of charge.

#### Looking forward to the holidays?

The end-of-year holiday season is fast approaching and many of us are looking forward to a joyful, peaceful and memorable time with our loved ones. To help make sure that you have a safe holiday celebration, please ensure that you are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Quick and easy-access vaccination is available at the DUT Isolempilo Clinic on the Steve Biko campus every Thursday from 08h30 to 15h00. You don't need an appointment. If you would prefer the *Pfizer* vaccine instead of the *Johnson & Johnson* vaccine being administered, please contact the Clinic to make an appointment. Remember, with the current temporary closure of the Durban campuses following the recent violent protests, please call the Clinic before attempting to visit. You should call **031 373 2223** during office hours or email [covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za](mailto:covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za) and Dr Stanley Onwubu will respond to you.

You can also take advantage of the Department of Health's *Vooma Vaccination Weekend* from today until Sunday by visiting one of these vaccination sites: <https://sacoronavirus.co.za/active-vaccination-sites/>. You can also go to Clicks, Dis-Chem or various other private facilities for safe, effective vaccination, whether you are on a private medical aid or not. When you're vaccinated, you can safely enjoy summer and mix socially over the holidays. Getting vaccinated is your key to safer social interaction, fun and celebrations this festive season. Students and staff from the Midlands campuses who are due for their second vaccine doses, will soon be informed of arrangements that are being made for vaccination.

A booster vaccination is now available for healthcare workers who participated in the Sisonke study and who received their first doses of the *Johnson & Johnson* vaccine. We will be in contact with those who are eligible for a booster vaccine.



# VACCINES SAVE LIVES STOP THE SPREAD

**Don't hesitate. Vaccinate!**

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

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| TOTAL NUMBER OF POSITIVE CASES:                    | 313                              |
| TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF WHO TESTED POSITIVE:         | 168                              |
| TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO TESTED POSITIVE:      | 145                              |
| NUMBER OF NEW CASES TO REPORT:                     | 0                                |
| NUMBER OF NEW CASES (Students):                    | 0                                |
| NUMBER OF NEW CASES (Staff):                       | 0                                |
| LOCATION OF NEW CASES:                             | 0 Durban & 0 PMB                 |
| NUMBER OF RECOVERIES:                              | 302 (141 students & 161 staff)   |
| Total Number of Deaths:                            | 11 (3 students & 8 staff)        |
| Total Number of Active cases:                      | 0 (0 students & 0 staff)         |
| HAS CONTACT TRACING COMMENCED FOR NEW CASES:       | No new reported cases this week. |
| HAS DISINFECTION OF AREAS COMMENCED FOR NEW CASES: | No new reported cases this week. |

We are extremely grateful that there were no new cases reported in the DUT community this week.

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# MYTH OR TRUTH?

## MYTH:

The COVID-19 vaccines are dangerous.

## TRUTH:

The vaccines work with minimal risk. In South Africa, over 13 million COVID-19 vaccines have been administered, and nobody has died as a result.

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In conclusion, even though infection rates are currently much lower than they were earlier this year, please do not relax your guard. You must consistently stick to the basic precautions to limit the impact of the expected fourth wave of the pandemic. Please **wear a mask** securely covering your nose and mouth when in public or around other people; **stay a minimum of 1.5 metres away** from all other persons; and practice **good hand hygiene**, washing with soap and water or applying a minimum 70% alcohol-based hand sanitiser. Most importantly, please get fully vaccinated as soon as possible, to ensure that we can get back to in-person teaching, learning, research and graduation in 2022.

Please take care and stay safe.

Sincerely

**DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team**

**#DUTGetYourJob**

**#DUTGettingBackToNormal**

## **Gender Based Violence Command Centre (GBVCC)**

The GBVCC provides immediate support for victims of GBV, including referral of calls to the South African Police Services (10111) and fielding social workers to assist. To contact the Centre:

- Call **0800 428 428 24**
- USSD number \*120\*7867#
- SMS “Help” to 31531 for persons with disabilities.
- Skype “Helpme GBV”