

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

19 November 2021

COVID-19 RESPONSE TASK TEAM WEEKLY UPDATE

Dear staff and students

Experts are of the opinion that it is no longer a matter of 'if' South Africa will experience a fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, but 'when'. In fact, a fourth surge in infections is predicted to begin towards the end of this month or the beginning of December. This is not good news for the holiday season, but there is a solution.

Make sure it's a happy holiday

Those who are vaccinated against COVID-19 will be far safer to socialise with friends and family these coming holidays, able to take full advantage of the opportunity to mix freely with others without fear of serious consequences. This is because the vaccines protect you against catching COVID-19 in the first place, but if you do become infected, you will be strongly protected against severe illness, from hospitalisation and ventilation, and against the very real possibility of dying from this preventable disease.

To ensure a healthy, happy holiday, don't miss the opportunity to get vaccinated against COVID-19. DUT's Clinic is offering quick and easy vaccination every Thursday from 08h30 to 15h00. The new venue for vaccination is the Food Court, Opposite the Library, Gate 3 on the Steve Biko campus. You don't need an appointment. Just bring your ID and student or staff card. If you would prefer the Pfizer vaccine to the Johnson & Johnson vaccine being administered, please contact covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za to make an appointment.

Students and staff from the Midlands campuses who are due for their second vaccine doses will be informed of arrangements being made for vaccination.

Events news

At a meeting of the COVID-19 Response Task Team on Monday 15 November 2021, it was decided that all departments, divisions and Directorates avoid hosting any face-to-face contact events, such as team building, retreats, strategic planning sessions, and so forth. All sections are encouraged to host these events online.

Don't forget the basics

Even if you are vaccinated against COVID-19, everyone still needs to take the basic precautions of wearing a mask in public, including at DUT, distancing yourself from others by 1.5 metres, and practising good hand hygiene. Even though infection rates in South Africa are currently low, the moment we drop our guard, infections will once again rise steeply. Please stay on your guard.

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 0)

Number of recoveries: 302 (Students 141 & Staff 161)

Total number of deaths: 11 (Students 3 & Staff 8)

Total number of active cases: 0 (Students 0 & Staff 0)

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 2022, we look forward to a campus where we can safely teach, learn and conduct research together without the fear of contracting COVID-19. To enable us to return to in-person sessions, please practise the basic precautions and get vaccinated as soon as possible.

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 SAPS (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”



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