

Dear Colleagues and Students

Good Evening!

There have been numerous requests from staff and students requesting information about the specific protocols to follow around persons who are travelling (inbound and outbound).

***For those escaping load shedding***

South Africa has not imposed travel restrictions yet. However, the Senior Executive Team has advised that ***all non-essential travel should be reconsidered***. And no, the University's travel insurance does not cover the costs of a non-essential trip. We know that it may be a good time to take advantage of cheap airfares, but remember that there is a possibility that you could contract the virus or find yourself stuck in a country that could impose travel restrictions, thereby limiting your movement, and leaving you with unplanned accommodation, food and other costs.

***For those coming in***

All staff members are required to alert their respective manager and/or Head of School, at least 48 hours before arriving in the country and inform the relevant SET member. Students are required to report ahead of their arrival to the Dean of Students.

The following steps should be followed (the NICD's advice):

1. Determine if the incoming traveller is from a country that has had a high transmission of COVID-19 as per the [interactive map](#) on the World Health Organization's website. At the moment China, Italy, Iran and South Korea are no-go areas.
2. If the traveller is from a country with low COVID-19 transmission and has no symptoms (fever, cough, spluttering, tight chest), the traveller may return to daily life activities, but must self-monitor for symptoms. If symptoms develop, they must:
  - a. self-isolate immediately,
  - b. prevent transmission (wash hands, wear a mask),
  - c. seek help from a healthcare professional and take their advice (remember to call ahead to inform the doctor of your symptoms), and
  - d. inform their department or school.
3. If the traveller is from a country with high transmission rates, it is recommended that the traveller self-isolate for at least 14 days, and if symptoms develop:
  - a. seek help from a healthcare professional and take their advice (remember to call ahead to inform the doctor of your symptoms), and
  - b. contact the NICD hotline on **0800 029 999**.

**More credible info:**

NICD travel advice: <http://www.nicd.ac.za/advice-for-returning-travellers/>

WHO travel advice: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/travel-advice>

**Questions, comments and queries:**

Reply to this email or send a note to the COVID-19 management committee via [vco.news@wits.ac.za](mailto:vco.news@wits.ac.za)

Keep washing, keep safe!

**The COVID-19 Management Committee**

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