

Subject: COVID-19 UPDATE 37 – LET’S DO OUR BIT

Date: Friday, 17 July 2020 at 19:30:22 South Africa Standard Time

From: Shirona Patel on behalf of VCO News

To: VCO News

Dear Colleagues

“The surge has arrived. The storm is upon us.” – President Cyril Ramaphosa (12 July 2022)

We are in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and it will take our collective strength and care to weather the storm and to protect ourselves, our family, friends and colleagues.

Number of infections

There are 21 staff members who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last week (11 – 17 July 2020). These include staff members who are working from home. Seven students have tested positive during this period. All affected staff members and students are self-isolating, in line with the University’s COVID-19 protocols.

No. of infections	22 Jun – 10 Jul	11 Jul – 17 Jul	Total
Staff	40	21	61
Students	16	7	23
Total	56	28	84

The data provided in the table is based on the number of infections reported to the OHSE Office and the Campus Health and Wellness Centre. The number of recoveries will be reported as the information becomes available.

One staff member has passed away due to being infected with COVID-19. Preliminary investigations indicate that this employee did not contract COVID-19 out of or in the course of employment, but may likely have been infected by a family member.

Our responsibility

Each and every one of us has the responsibility to **follow all government regulations and University protocols at all times**. If we do not adhere to these rules, we place our lives, as well as the lives of others at risk.

You must:

- Wear your mask over your nose and mouth (or the appropriate PPE in specialised areas) at all times,
- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and dry properly,
- Stay at least 1.5 metres from any other person,
- Sneeze or cough into your elbow, and
- Follow all COVID-19 government regulations and University protocols and rules.

Remember to complete the daily [screening process](#) via the Wits App BEFORE entering our campuses. If the app indicates that you are not allowed onto campus, please stay home and self-isolate. The paper-based screening forms will no longer be available at the entrances to campus - this is to protect you and to ensure the safety of campus protection officers.

Managers’ responsibility

Wits University’s managers are responsible for ensuring that all employees and students comply with the requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Act and the various COVID-19 directives.

Managers must:

- ensure that all persons comply with the requirements of the OHS Act,
- put in place measures to ensure the health and safety of people on campuses, and
- take disciplinary action (including potential legal action) against any person who does not comply with the regulations, protocols and rules.

The OHS Act

Section 14 of the OHS Act states that all persons must:

- take reasonable care for their health and safety, and that of other persons who may be affected by their acts or omissions,
- carry out any lawful order given to them, and
- obey the health and safety rules and procedures laid down by the employer in the interests of the health and safety of all.

In terms of Section 38 (1) of the OHS Act, any person who contravenes or fails to comply with Section 14 of the OHS Act shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction, be liable for a fine not exceeding R50 000 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year or to both such fine and such imprisonment.

Reporting non-compliance

Any person on Wits University's campuses can report incidents of non-compliance to the person's supervisor or line manager, who must address these transgressions in line with the University's disciplinary procedures.

Let's do our bit

We are in this together – let's do our bit to protect ourselves, our colleagues, our students, and members of our community.

Take care.

SENIOR EXECUTIVE TEAM

17 JULY 2020