

# **Generic Guidelines: Student Accommodation and Catering-Residence Environment**

As part of the interim measures and directives implemented by the University Management Committee, guidelines serve to provide further guidance and clarity with specific reference to Student Accommodation and Catering VUT environment. VUT is committed to ensure the safety of its students and staff and these measures are in response to the President's directives and the subsequent pronouncements by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology. These measures demonstrate VUT's commitment towards ensuring that the academic year is completed successfully.

## **1. General Comments**

The generic guidelines are provided as a guiding document with the aim of further developing and expanding on the content to allow for the creation of a functional process that takes into consideration the nuances of each campus. The Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation announced that under Alert Level 2, a maximum of 66% of the student population will be allowed to return to campuses and residences, on condition that they can be safely accommodated. These protocols and guidelines are established to contribute to this condition. This document replaces the guidelines dated 02 June 2020 in its entirety.

## **2. Residences**

Students who have been informed that they may return to residences under the Alert Level 3 and Alert Level 2 lock down rules and who return to the campus/residences, must accept this entire protocol and sign the acceptance page as indication of their acceptance of the conditions, and also those that will be developed as time passes and the situation changes. By accepting the invitation to return, students who are sharing rooms also agree to continue to share their rooms which were allocated at the beginning of the year. Students who reside in residences, must at all times strictly adhere to the following protocols that will be in effect from Thursday 10 September 2020.

Given the extremely serious circumstances which these protocols attempt to address, the non-adherence to these protocols will be viewed in a very serious light and will lead to disciplinary measures and a complete shutdown of the residence in question, with the remaining students being asked to vacate the residences.

### **Residence Student Protocols**

2.1. Students remain subject to the VUT Student Disciplinary Policy. These protocols complement the residence rules and wherever a contradiction between the two sets of rules occur, these protocols will apply as priority.

2.2. NO VISITORS may be received at any time. Such visitors include those students from other residences on campus who are not residing in that specific residence. Overnight visits and week-end visits to family and friends are strongly discouraged due to the risk it carries when returning to the residences.

2.3. No meetings or gatherings of students are allowed. Visits to House Parents, Supervisors and Managers must be limited and WhatsApp messages or emails should rather be used.

2.4. Residence students will not be allowed through the main gates between 22h00 and 07h00 to leave or enter the campus. In case of a medical emergency the House Parent and/or the Campus Clinic must be contacted.

2.5. Residence students must complete a self-screening test daily – which includes a daily temperature reading - to ensure that their access cards remain active. Failing to do this will result in the access card being revoked. Students who exhibit any symptoms will be assisted in line with the Standard Operating Procedures that have been developed for infection control measures, and MUST report to the campus clinic for further assistance.

2.6. All residence students must attend a training session where their presence will be recorded as proof of attendance.

2.7. No contact classes will be offered on the campuses and students returning to residences will be required to observe the national regulations published on 17 August 2020 in relation to their residence being regarded as their homes for the purposes of adhering to the regulations.

2.8. Students will be allowed to visit the campus libraries, computer laboratories and other specialised laboratories during the day as arranged by the faculties in line with the applicable regulations and protocols.

- 2.9. Students will only have access to residences through the university permits.
- 2.10. Depending on the number of students in the residence, designated kitchen and bathroom facilities will be indicated within each residence, with an increased cleaning and sanitation process implemented.
- 2.11. Only students who have been identified to return to residences will have access to their residence (through their access permits). Protection Services will monitor and control access to the residences as per prescribed list issued by the academic faculties.
- 2.12. Residence students must keep a record of other persons and places (outside the residence – i.e., when traveling to town, university facilities, etc.) they come into contact with (This will enable a contact track and trace process in the event that such a student might become infected with the Coronavirus).
- 2.13. Students who have been permitted to return to residences must take care in continuing to observe the general rules of “social distancing”, personal hygiene, and “sneezing etiquette.”
- 2.13.1. Students sharing double rooms are also requested to observe the above-mentioned practices, and minimize any possible personal contact.
- 2.13.2. Students should observe the one and a half meter space prescript between them at all times.
- 2.13.3. Cloth masks must be worn at all times when the students are outside of their rooms.
- 2.13.4. Avoid any physical contact such as hugging or shaking of hands.
- 2.13.5. Wash your hands regularly and at least EVERY time you visit rest rooms and other places used by other students frequently.
- 2.14. Residence students may be requested to move to other rooms depending on the situation on the campus or in the particular residence. Initially all returning students will return to their originally allocated rooms.
- 2.15. A thorough check-in process will be enforced at all campus gates and entrances to the residences through the student cards which will be activated for eligible students only. Students who are not on the approved list, will not be able to access campus, nor their residence.
- 2.16. No gatherings of any nature in the residences or on campus are allowed.

**2.17. NO ALCOHOL WILL BE PERMITTED IN THE RESIDENCES OR ON CAMPUS.**

2.18. Washing of hands and the use of sanitisers provided throughout the residences should be done on a regular basis.

2.19. Students who experience flu-like symptoms should report to their House Parents and/Welfare Manager/CHE and/or Campus Clinic paragraph 4.

2.20. Students who share a room should be extra diligent in observing the safety protocols. Masks must be worn when interacting with each other while in the room together. Sanitising of hands and common used surfaces, such as the door handles, kitchen surfaces, shared bath rooms and common living areas should be cleaned regularly. Additional hand sanitizers will be made available for the sharing rooms and placed in common used areas.

**3. Cafeterias Access Control.**

3.1 All cafeterias are currently closed. Students will be allowed to go off campus **STIPULATE DAYS AND TIMES**.....to buy the necessities.

Entrances to residences will be equipped with hand sanitisers and security at all residences will be required to ensure that students and staff members (customers) who enter the facilities sanitise their hands before entry.

3.2 No sitting down facilities will be available and food will only be provided on a take away basis.

3.3 Signs will be placed in all the areas indicating the requirement to observe the social distancing.

3.4. In the event of possible infection, the student will be related to VUT ISOLATION SITE.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ ACCEPTANCE

Full Name and Surname

Student number \_\_\_\_\_

Residence understand the above mentioned protocols and accept the responsibility it places on me to adhere to all the safety requirements. I understand that the protocols have been devised and are implemented in order to keep all the students, staff and other parties on the VUT premises safe. I further understand that if I was placed in a shared room at the beginning of 2020, I will be returning to that shared room. This

places an even higher responsibility on myself to adhere to all the safety protocols in order to keep my roommate and myself safe.

---

Signature