

VUT Guidelines for Ensuring Compliance and consequence management regarding non-compliance with COVID-19 Protocols and Regulations for students

Purpose of the document

The purpose of this document is to provide students with guidelines on how to comply with the provisions of the National Regulations as well as VUT protocols, regulations and directives and relating to COVID-19. It is also to provide VUT students with the necessary steps to ensure compliance, how to report non-compliance and the consequences of non-compliance.

2. Scope of application

These guidelines will apply to all students at the Vaal University of Technology.

3. Communication

All students must attend COVID-19 video training and familiarise themselves with the COVID-19 protocols, regulations and directives of the VUT. The VUT COVID 19 Team will consult a behavioral expert in order to promote sustainable behavior change. Regular communication in times of uncertainty and crisis like the COVID-19 virus is necessary. The risk that non-compliance poses to the VUT community and their loved ones will also be communicated on a regular basis.

Any COVID-19 related queries can be directed at (VUT Task Team Covid19 Corporate Communications).

Constant, clear, concise and positive electronic communication will be shared as often as possible which will, amongst others, include

- Importance of correct wearing of a mask (what is the reason for that – including the micro particle transmission risk) and mask should always be worn - when you exit your place of residence or residence room.
- Importance of ventilation.
- What to do when someone is suspected or confirmed of having the virus (for example for students and residence employees: remain calm, let the person sit in his/her room and close door, provide affected person with a surgical mask, complete the form to be submitted to campus health, call campus health for advice, activate cleaning team once case is confirmed etc., do not evacuate building for example)
- The importance of physical distancing and the implications of not practicing physical distancing.
- What does physical distancing in our environment mean (Common areas such as offices, lecture halls, staff rooms, printer and copier rooms, labs, etc.).
- Keeping the register and try to keep it electronic and the importance thereof.
- Behavior at work (cleaning etc).

4. Rules for compliance

The protocols published on the VUT E-COM contains all the relevant guidelines, protocols, directives and procedures. It is the responsibility of the VUT Community to familiarise themselves with such.

5. Consequences of non-compliance

Students must be constantly reminded of the consequences of failure or negligence of non-compliance with the VUT protocols and South African rules and regulations. They must also realise that there will or may be consequences for their failures.

The following actions will apply for non-compliance:

- Complaints must be lodged at campus security and will be investigated.
- Complaints must also be reported to the Welfare Manager/House Parents/ Placement Manager.
- Non-compliance may lead to a student disciplinary process.

6. Rules for compliance

- Students who are who are sick or have symptoms associated with COVID-19 should report it to residence officers or if in private residence does not enter the premises of the VUT. They should report to a healthcare facility or campus health and report as per protocols published on the VUT E-COM.
- Students in residence must follow the VUT Covid19 at Student Accommodation and Catering environment.
- In the case where a student tests positive all the contacts of the student must be informed of the positive test.
- Symptom screening of all students should be conducted daily prior to entering the premises of the VUT.
- Students in residence must report to the relevant residence staff members and campus clinic **(016-9509597)** if they present with any of the following signs or symptoms:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Sore throat
 - Redness of eyes
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing
 - Body aches
 - Loss of smell or loss of taste
 - Nausea
 - Vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Fatigue
 - Weakness or tiredness
 - Headaches

If a student presents with any of the above-mentioned symptoms, or advises the VUT these symptoms the student must,

- Not leave his/her room if in residence rather inform the residence staff.

The following process should be followed:

- Isolate the student in his/her room.

- Provide the student with a surgical mask (obtain from healthcare centre).
- The student must complete the COVID-19 reporting form on the intranet.
- Contact the healthcare centre.
- The student should then visit in a safe manner to the healthcare centre and whilst doing so minimise the contact with other people.
- Whilst awaiting test results the student so quarantine and once a positive test result is received self-isolation should be done as per the protocols of Department of health.
- The student should also provide a list of contact to Campus health in order to facilitate contact tracing.
- Such contacts should be referred for screening to Campus health.
- Inform occupational safety to activate the cleaning protocol.
- Students in private residence may not enter the premises of the VUT, rather make contact with Campus health.
- Nobody will be allowed onto the premises of the VUT without a mask. If you exit your room in a residence you should also be wearing a mask and masks should always worn whilst on the campus.
- Every student must adhere to this protocol, necessary corrective and corrective and punitive actions will be instituted in cases of non-compliance with any COVID-19 VUT protocol directives or regulations.
- Nobody can refuse testing or screening for COVID-19. If a person is suspected to have contracted COVID-19, or be diagnosed with COVID-19 or been in contact with someone who has COVID-19 they may not refuse the following:
 - Submission of that person for a medical examination, including by not limited to the taking of any bodily sample by a person authorised in law to do so;
 - Admission of that person to a health establishment or quarantine or isolation site; or
 - In the case where a student does not want to follow the above, campus protection services must be contacted. This student must be placed in isolation for a period of 48 hours and the legal office can apply for a warrant to enforce testing must be applied for by the legal office.

7. Related documents for reference and consultation

- VUT Covid19 Protocol at Student Accommodation and Catering.
- Standard Operating Procedure:
- COVID-19 Occupational Health and Safety VUT Facilities Cleaning Protocol during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Health Care Centre: Standard Operating Procedure COVID-19
- Directive to staff and students on quarantine and isolation for suspected or confirmed COVID-19 disease.
- VUT COVID-19 Updates
- Protocol on physical distancing for the reduction of the risk of COVID-19 transmission
- Urgent process to follow to ensure effective contact tracing
- Government press releases and notices
- Library and information services COVID- 19 protocol• Directive on use of computer laboratories
- VUT Protection services protocol
- Directive on Formal and Informal sports events, gatherings, and Meetings
- Directive on Official and Private travel by Staff and students receiving international visitors