



1 October 2020

Dear students

All students are hereby notified that as part of the Vaal University of Technology (VUT)'s implementation of the Covid-19 Task Team's published protocols, and in adopting a *zero-tolerance approach* towards contraventions of these Protocols to ensure safety, security and health of all staff and students (in accordance with the Disaster Management Act and the National Covid19 Regulations), VUT will initiate disciplinary proceedings against any student across the university (namely, at residences, on campus and off campus) who are found violating these protocols in any way. Students that do not fully comply with the Covid-19 protocols will be temporarily suspended pending the finalization of a disciplinary hearing. Such a suspension will include vacating residences immediately whilst the hearing is pending.

VUT has invited a further 33% of the total number of students to return to campuses as part of the phased return as per Government Regulations. This implies that the number of students on campuses and at residences has increased. Some students have been given permits for return to campuses in order to complete their academic activities by participating in laboratory work, workshops or practical assignments. Other students have been given permits for accommodation only and do not require access to campuses on a daily basis as their mode of teaching is virtual.

The increased volume of students on campuses necessitates a high degree of vigilance in ensuring full compliance with national guidelines and VUT protocols, aimed at curbing the spread of this pandemic.

All our communications have constantly emphasized the need to act responsibly in the best interest of students (jointly and severally) to protect the VUT community. Even though the majority of the student population is acting responsibly, there have been reported instances in which some of the students are acting irresponsibly and knowingly exposing others to dangers of contracting the virus. This is a totally unacceptable behaviour that will not be tolerated. We must all be aware that in terms of national legislation, deliberate and negligent spread of the coronavirus will lead to criminal

prosecution. It is our duty to ensure that staff and students on our campuses are safe and continue to perform their activities without fear.

All students need to adhere to the daily physical screening procedures at the main gate or via the Higher Health App prior to entering a campus or residences. Even though students are allowed to return to residences or campuses, we are very far from the usual way we have been doing business, there has been circumstances that necessitated change and adaptation.

We rely on the concerted effort and support of the whole VUT community to act in accordance with the University's ethic of care and solidarity in reacting to our current circumstances.

Please take note of the following directives and protocols:

- [Guidelines for Ensure Compliance and consequence management regarding non-compliance with COVID-19 Protocols and Regulations for students.](#)
- [Generic Guidelines: Student Support Service and Student Accommodation and Catering](#)

Easing of lockdown to alert level one (1) requires the university to adjust its risk strategy in line with these changes as well as to increase the number of students on campuses and residences.

Acting responsibly in accordance with the set regulatory protocols will help protect you and others.

Regards

Mr K Marumola

Director Student Accommodation and Catering