



**VAAL UNIVERSITY
OF TECHNOLOGY**

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MEMORANDUM

**Office of the Director: Marketing and Public Relations
Advancement Department**

+27(0)16 950 9225

kedie@vut.ac.za

To: VUT Staff and Students
CC: Covid-19 Campus Biosafety Task Team
From: Director: Marketing and Public Relations
Date: 12/1/2021
Subject: **4th WAVE SAFETY TIPS**

As the 2021 academic year is coming to an end, we are all looking forward to spending quality time with families and friends. However, the Covid-19 virus continues to threaten our wellbeing as scientists have recently detected the Omicron variant which has more mutations than any previous variant and it coincides with the sudden rise of Covid-19 infections in the country.

During his Presidential address on Sunday, 28 November 2021, President Ramaphosa mentioned that, since the first Covid-19 vaccines became available late last year, there has been a dramatical decrease in severe illness, hospitalisation and deaths in South Africa and across the world. He further urged all South Africans who have not been vaccinated, to visit the nearest vaccination sites without delay to protect themselves and those around them.

Below are the safety tips from Government that we should take note of as precautionary measure against Covid-19 related infections:

1 Vaccinate to save lives!

- Vaccination is the best line of defence.
- Vaccines offer protection against COVID-19 and reduce the risk of serious illness, hospitalization and death.
- You can visit any vaccination site, even without an appointment. You will be registered on site and get vaccinated.

2 What happens next is in our hands!

- Infections are rising in various parts of the country ahead of the festive season.
- The virus cannot spread if we all continue to follow the rules.
- Together we can fight the spread of the virus by always wearing a mask, washing hands with soap and water or sanitiser and by observing social distancing.

3 We have the power to prevent the 4th wave by acting now!

- We all need to remain vigilant and consider the effect of our actions on others.
- Avoid large crowds, especially in indoor spaces where there might be little or no proper ventilation.
- When indoors, ensure the venue is properly ventilated.
- Continue to be vigilant when visiting friends and family over the festive season.
- Do not let your guard down simply because you are with family and friends.
- Always follow the rules and protocols and encourage others to do the same.

- Large scale events are known COVID-19 “super spreaders”, as well as large gatherings which involve the consumption of alcohol.
- If you are travelling in public transport, wear a mask, covering both the nose and mouth and ensure that windows are open.

4 Tracking the pandemic

Higher Health has undertaken to share weekly statistics related to the cases in the country. They have reported that the number of confirmed new COVID-19 cases remained relatively high throughout the weekend, with a strong concentration in Gauteng. Below are the recent figures that we received on Monday, 29 November 2021:

- Friday : 2 828 (testing positivity rate of 9.1%)
- Saturday : 322 (9.2%)
- Sunday : 2 858 (9.8%)

The seven (7) day daily average new cases for the week ending 28 November 2021 were 4 506 (according to the website www.covid19sa.org), with figures of 560 and 283 reported for the weeks ending 21 November and 14 November respectively.

5 Vaccination Pop-Up site: Thursday, 2 December 2021

The Department of Health, VUT Medical team, with the support of the Advancement Department, will host a Vaccination Drive – the last for 2021 - on **Thursday, 2 December 2021 from 09h00 – 15h00 @ the Lapa, VUT Main Residences**. The intention is to give more staff and students an opportunity to get vaccinated before the festive season. VUT is experiencing an increase in Covid-19 cases amongst students. You are encouraged to make use of this opportunity and get vaccinated to save your life and those of your loved ones during the holidays.

Bring your ID / driver’s license or police signed affidavit, confirming your identity. You will be registered on EVDS and vaccinate on the spot

Your cooperation will be highly appreciated.

Kind regards



Ms Kediemetse Mokotsi