

Deputy Vice-Chancellor's Communique' 23 June 2020

COVID-19 LEVEL 3: RETURN TO UKZN



Dear Students

In a bid to save the 2020 academic year, South Africa's Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation; Dr Blade Nzimande announced that tertiary institutions would gradually be reopening from 1st June to a maximum of 33% of students.

UKZN has been working tirelessly to ensure that the University is able to accommodate our students safely. As we prepare for the

gradual return of students to our campuses, we remain mindful of the fact that the easing of the lockdown measures does not mean that the threat posed by COVID-19 has diminished in any way.

The College of Health Sciences (CHS) has finalised the plan for the return of certain categories of our students. In this communique, you will find the list of categories as well as their return dates. The return dates indicated are specifically for students staying in UKZN residences. Those students residing at home or in private residences should not come to campus until they are advised to by their Discipline as no contact teaching will take place at UKZN. The Disciplines will continue with online teaching as well as laboratory work. Clinical placements will take place and more details about this will be relayed by the relevant School.

Please note that further communication from the relevant School will include a link for COVID-19 screening as well as the link to apply for a permit. No student will be allowed onto campus or any of the residences without an official permit from UKZN. Only students who are contacted must return to the relevant residence/campus.

Remember to wear a cloth mask during your travelling and in all public spaces. UKZN will provide each student with 2 cloth masks and sanitisers will be available at all entry points and in residences. CHS students that will be placed in clinical sites will be prioritized to receive the Influenza vaccine and will undergo COVID-19 testing using a saliva specimen.

We wish you a safe journey back.

Best wishes
Professor Busisiwe Ncama

SCHOOL OF CLINICAL MEDICINE

- All 4th year MBChB students are to return to their residences on Monday, 29 and Tuesday, 30 June 2020
- All 5th year students will return to the PMB residences on Monday, 29 and Tuesday, 30 June 2020
- The movement of students will be restricted for 14 days therefore students who need to go to DCTP sites will only do so after 13 July 2020.
- 7 x 3rd Year students who are to join 4th year in 2nd semester will return to the Durban residences on Monday, 29 June 2020.
- Students will receive the influenza vaccine and will undergo COVID-19 testing using a saliva specimen.

SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

- 4th Year students from Audiology, Occupational Therapy, Optometry, Physiotherapy and Speech-Language Therapy programmes including Masters and PhD students to return to Westville campus residences on Monday, 29 June 2020.
- 63 Pharmaceutical Sciences final year students who have been given permission to return to their residences by their Discipline, due to limited access to online teaching because of connectivity issues.
- 3rd Year students from Audiology, Dental Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Optometry, Physiotherapy, Speech-Language Therapy and Honours Biokinetic programmes to return to Westville campus residences on Tuesday, 30 June 2020.
- Students staying in private residences to remain at home as no contact teaching will take place.
- During the weeks of 1st-11th July 2020, students that will be placed in clinical settings will be prioritised for the receipt of influenza vaccines as well as COVID-19 testing (saliva specimen). All returning students to attend on-line clinical revisions and undergo various training sessions ONLINE e.g. PPE, etc. A programme will be circulated.
- Students on the DCT platforms will be transported to their relevant sites on Sunday, 12th July 2020.
- All other students will commence with on campus clinical training and or practical sessions on Monday, 13th July 2020 as per their respective programme/degree timetable.
- Computer LANs to be made available to students who experience data connectivity. LANs are prepared in line with COVID-19 regulations.

SCHOOL OF NURSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH

- All Bachelor of Nursing students to return to their residences as follows:
- 4th Years – 29 June
- 3rd years – 30 June
- 1st and 2nd Years – 01 July
- Students staying in private residences to remain at home as no contact teaching will take place.
- During the weeks of 1st-11th July 2020, all students to be placed in clinical settings will be prioritised to receive the influenza vaccine and will undergo COVID-19 testing using a saliva specimen.
- During this week, all students will attend on-line clinical revisions and undergo various training sessions ONLINE e.g. PPE, etc. A programme will be circulated.
- Students on the DCT and clinical platforms will be transported to their relevant sites on Sunday, 12th July 2020.
- Computer LANs to be made available to non-residence students who experience data/connectivity problems from home.

SCHOOL OF LABORATORY MEDICINE AND MEDICAL SCIENCES

- The total number of students returning under level 3 for both Masters and PhD is 63.
- Students in residence will return to residences between 29 and 30 June
- PhD and Masters students will return on the 6th July to Laboratories
- Laboratories have developed protocols to address student numbers and Lab capacity.
- Further details will be provided to the relevant student