



27 July 2020

Dear Staff and Students,

RE: ONE (1) CONFIRMED COVID-19 POSITIVE CASE AND ONE (1) PRESUMPTIVE CASE

Positive Case

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) would like to inform its campus community and the public that a part-time lecturer in the Department of Architecture and Spatial Planning received a positive test result for COVID-19 on Friday, 24 July 2020.

During the week of 15 July 2020, the staff member indicated that they were not feeling well, and consequently visited a General Practitioner who recommended that they get tested for COVID-19. The patient, who last visited campus on 08 July 2020, has since been placed in a government quarantine facility.

Presumptive Case

A staff member from HR was recently in close contact with a relative that tested positive for COVID-19 on 26 July 2020. The relative did not show any symptoms before the test was conducted. The University is currently waiting for the test results of the staff member as a secondary contact. In the interim, the concerned staff member will be in isolation for the recommended 14 days.

Additional Precautionary Measures

It must further be noted that staff members that were in contact with the both the positive case and the presumptive case, have been identified and advised to self-isolate for a period of 14 days. A full disinfection of the affected surface areas has already been done and the University has activated additional measures to minimize potential exposure to the virus by its broader and surrounding community.

Campus security has also been instructed to continue ensuring that all persons entering campus premises wear a facemask, sanitise their hands regularly, maintain a social distance of not less than 1.5 metre and that their body temperature is tested. Furthermore, everyone is reminded to immediately report symptoms associated with the virus to the Ministry of Health and Social Services on their Toll-Free number, **0800 100 100**.

The University will continuously keep stakeholders updated on any significant developments with respect to these alerts. Below is the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to be followed in the event of any suspected or confirmed COVID-19 incident at the Institution.

1. If a staff member/student is suspected of exposure to COVID-19, they should immediately report this to their immediate supervisor.
2. The supervisor shall inform the Health and Safety office on 061 207 2764 or email COVID19@nust.na as soon as possible.
3. The Health and Safety Office will confirm the information with the staff member/student and initiate contact-tracing procedures.
4. The Health and Safety Office shall confirm with the Human Resources (HR) and Facilities directors and inform the concerned staff member/student to get tested and self-isolate for 14 days. Meanwhile, the University will ensure that social distancing and other health hygiene protocols are followed at all times.
5. The Facilities Director, the Office of the Acting Vice-Chancellor and Health and Safety Office will suspend classes or evacuate buildings should the situation demand such. The Facilities Director will also instruct Campus Control for immediate building isolation and disinfection.
6. A staff member/student will request permission from their supervisor to work from home or may apply for special leave.
7. The supervisor will then forward the application to HR for consideration. The HR conditions shall apply.
8. If approved, the supervisor shall make sure that the staff member/student continues to perform their duties and that operations will continue to run smoothly during the period the staff/student is on self-isolation.
9. Staff members/students should immediately report to the Ministry of Health and Social Services hotline **0800 100 100** should they experience any COVID-19 symptoms during the self-isolation period.
10. The ministry shall inform the staff/student of the next steps to follow.
11. The staff member/student shall inform their supervisor of the ministry's response, who in turn shall inform the University's Health and Safety Office.
12. After 14 days of self-isolation, the staff or student shall inform their supervisor of their return to work or class.
13. The Health and Safety Office will record the incident and make a follow-up on the concerned individual.

I would like to thank the entire NUST community for the cooperation and staying calm during the ongoing fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Be rest assured that the health and safety of staff and students remains our top priority.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Niikondo', written over a horizontal line.

Dr Andrew Niikondo
Acting Vice-Chancellor

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