



10 July 2020

Dear Staff and Students,

RE: PRESUMPTIVE CASE OF COVID-19

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), would like to inform its campus community and the public that it has a presumptive case of COVID-19 involving a student who is currently in isolation. The student shares an office with a colleague who was in contact with an individual that tested positive for COVID-19. The student's colleague is also in quarantine and waiting for results after being tested for COVID-19.

As the University waits for the test results of the secondary contact, staff and students who may have been in close contact with the affected student have been identified and advised to self-isolate for a period of 14 days. As a cautionary measure aimed at ensuring the safety of all students and staff, the University has suspended face-to-face classes in the affected Faculty and Department. A full disinfection of surface areas in question is 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 ensure 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 to the Ministry of Health and Social Services' Toll-Free number **0800 100 100** if one exhibits symptoms associated with the virus.

The University will continuously keep stakeholders updated on any significant developments with respect to this alert. 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.

Sincerely yours,



Dr Andrew Niikondo
Acting Vice-Chancellor

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