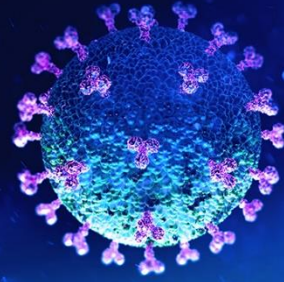




UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA - UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

**Find out more about UCT's approach
to COVID-19 on the UCT website**



23 March 2020

Fourth case of COVID-19 confirmed at UCT

The University of Cape Town confirms a fourth COVID-19 case at the institution.

The latest case is of a postgraduate student. UCT previously confirmed three cases, all of them involving staff.

The three staff members and the postgraduate student are in isolation. The Department of Health has also immediately begun contact tracing in the respective cases and those identified as close contacts have been informed and asked to quarantine themselves for two weeks.

- READ: [VC Desk confirming fourth COVID-19 case.](#)

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng, will outline more comprehensively in a few days several aspects relating to the management of COVID-19 at UCT. This will follow President Cyril Ramaphosa's address, which is expected later today, as it may very well influence UCT's plans.

One of the first major decisions that the UCT executive took in response to the health threat of COVID-19 was to break early for the term 1 vacation, hence suspending classes and asking students to vacate residences.

- READ: [VC Desk on UCT commencing Term 1 vacation immediately.](#)

The decision was based on comprehensive advice from health experts and in line with the President's declaration of a national disaster. The majority of students heeded this call. Staff from the Department of Student Affairs worked long hours over the last week and weekend to deal with cases where students experienced complexities in leaving.

Only a small number of students who were granted permission will remain in residences, and very strict terms and conditions will apply to these. These includes moving into specific self-catering, single-room residences and stringent access control.

Some students are still making arrangements to vacate residence and UCT will assist as far as possible and buses will be made available if needed.

UCT is concerned that there are students who do not qualify for special permission to stay, but who have not yet vacated their residence rooms. This creates a health risk to the students and to others. UCT has urged the students to adhere to the call to vacate the residences immediately.

- READ: [VC Desk urging students to support COVID-19 response.](#)

ENDS

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

Elijah Moholola

Senior Manager: Media Liaison and Social Media
Communication and Marketing Department
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch
Tel: 021 650 5674
Cell: 083 981 7770
Email: elijah.moholola@uct.ac.za
Website: www.uct.ac.za