

Campus Announcement



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

Dear colleagues and students

The reports on the outbreaks of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in West Africa have many people concerned. My colleagues and I have been discussing the best way to respond to the kinds of questions we have been receiving. This email discusses how we will keep the University of Cape Town community informed on this topic. Primarily we will make available to you information that is easily accessible to help you understand the disease, see the progress being made to contain it and how such measures might affect us.

The Faculty of Health Sciences has set up a webpage on EVD which is available [here](#). The webpage includes recent media reports on EVD, including articles and interviews by UCT medical staff; a FAQ sheet and Ebola School Factsheet to help you and your family keep informed about the disease; and EVD updates from the World Health Organisation and the National Institute for Communicable Diseases in South Africa. If you have questions about Ebola, I recommend that you visit this page for information. Updates will be added as they become available.

Sadly, every epidemic of infection is followed swiftly by an epidemic of stigma. For instance, the media report that tourists and business travellers are cancelling trips to anywhere in Africa, including South Africa, out of an unfounded fear of Ebola. For those concerned, we would like to advise that there is counselling available for students at the Student Wellness Service, and for staff via the Department of Human Resources.

It is important to remember that there have been no cases of Ebola in South Africa associated with the current outbreak. UCT is confident that the Department of Health is putting appropriate measures in place on the screening of incoming travellers for EVD and the management of possible cases. The medical professionals and staff at UCT will work with the Department of Health as necessary. An alert for healthcare workers is available on the [NICD website](#) and is updated regularly; this alert includes recommendations for assessing ill persons who have travelled to West Africa.

Sincerely

Kylie Hatton

Deputy Director: Communication & Marketing Department