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**18 March 2020**

## **UCT puts additional measures to manage unprecedented public health emergency**

The University of Cape Town has put more measures in place to further manage the unprecedented and continuously changing public health emergency caused by the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

The additional measures include:

- All UCT sport events have been cancelled or postponed. Sport facilities across campus will be closed.
- A limited number of Jammie Shuttle buses will remain operational. Safe hygienic practices will be strictly adhered to.
- The library will be closed as of Wednesday, 18 March 2020. Library services will operate as usual online and via telephone.
- The following UCT facilities are now closed until further notice: Baxter Theatre Centre, UCT Educare Centre, UCT Visitors Centre, Irma Stern Museum, and all large computer labs.
- The workplace is being redefined to enable staff members, where possible, to work offsite.

UCT has at this stage only one confirmed positive COVID-19 case, which was announced on Sunday, 16 March 2020. The number of people that the staff member had contact with on campus is estimated at 30 or fewer. The staff member and all the UCT contacts who have been traced will remain in self-isolation for 14 days. The process is managed by the Western Cape Department of Health as per provincial and national prescribed protocols. The building where the staff member worked will remain closed.

While the university is currently on recess, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC) for Teaching and Learning, Associate Professor Lis Lange, is leading the work around online teaching and learning. A Teaching Online Task Team, of which all UCT Deans are members, is compiling and analysing the needs of the different courses in order to map out how the Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching (CILT) in the Centre for Higher Education Development will provide support. By the end of this week there will be further details for students and academics about the online teaching plan.

- **READ:** [Full update by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng, outlining in detail the above measures.](#)
- **WATCH:** [Professor Phakeng speaks on measures put in place to mitigate the spread of the virus on campus \(note: the recording was done on Monday, 16 March\).](#)
- **LISTEN:** [An audio recording on the latest updates provided above.](#)

***ENDS***

***Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department***

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