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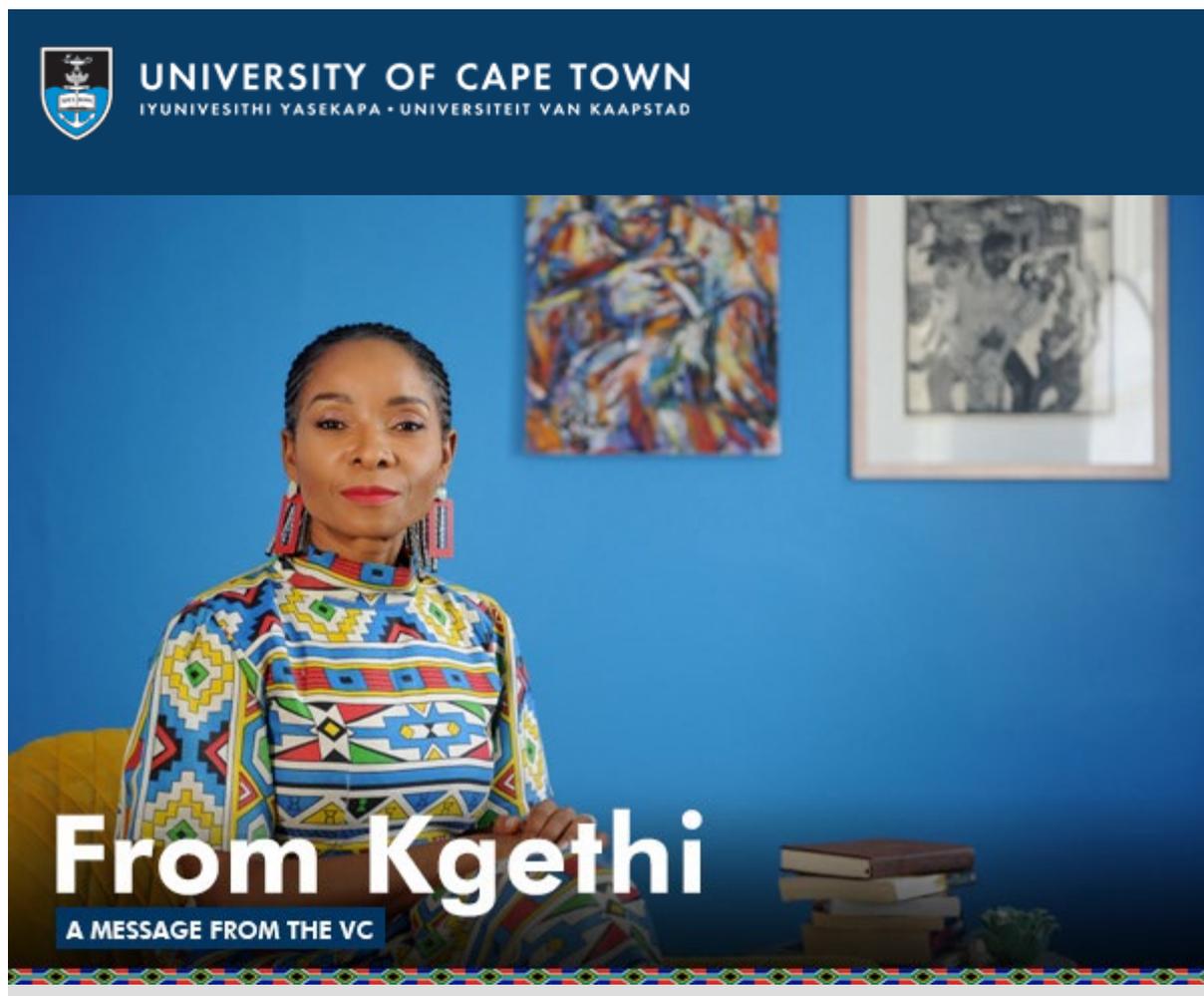
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21 March 2020

UCT confirms third case of COVID-19

The University of Cape Town confirms that a third staff member has tested positive for COVID-19. UCT has at this stage not had any student who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Read the full communication by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng, below.



UCT confirms third case of COVID-19

21 March 2020

Dear colleagues and students

I am writing to inform you that we have confirmed a third positive case of COVID-19 at the University of Cape Town (UCT).

Our first case was confirmed on Sunday 15 March 2020 and the second case on Thursday 19 March 2020.

The first case was a UCT-employed staff member. The second was a UCT-based visiting researcher associated with a department at UCT. The third case confirmed today, 21 March, is a UCT-employed project manager who worked in the same department as the second case.

In all three instances the Provincial Department of Health confirmed the cases through the prescribed protocol. The three colleagues involved are in quarantine. 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.

We continue to monitor each case and we wish all three colleagues the best in what is a difficult time. We sincerely trust that they will return to their full health.

Please note we are committed to maintain confidentiality in relation to the medical conditions of staff. This includes the information in relation to testing for whatever infectious or non-infectious diseases a person may have and is an important ethical imperative. Breaking that confidentiality is not acceptable and for healthcare professionals (who include health scientists) is against all moral codes. Naming people in e-mails or over social media platforms, or releasing information about them that could identify them, must be avoided.

Please visit UCT's [Coronavirus Disease 2019](#) feature page on the UCT News website, which has all the relevant information in relation to UCT's response to the pandemic.

Sincerely

Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng
Vice-Chancellor

Updates will be posted on UCT's [Coronavirus Disease 2019](#) feature page on the UCT News website.

ENDS

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