



Communication and Marketing Department
Isebe loThungelwano neNtengiso
Kommunikasie en Bemerkingsdepartement

Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa
Welgelegen House, Chapel Road Extension, Rosebank, Cape Town
Tel: +27 (0) 21 650 5427/5428/5674 Fax: +27 (0) 21 650 5628

www.uct.ac.za

14 September 2021

UCT to have engagements on vaccination proposal

The University of Cape Town (UCT) confirms that a proposal on vaccinations will be considered by the Senate at a meeting scheduled for Friday, 17 September 2021.

It is expected that Senate will debate this complex matter fully. It is ordinarily the case that any final decision on a matter of policy for the university will have to be a decision of the university Council. The view of the Senate, should it support a proposal for vaccinations, and the view of representatives of staff and students, will be put to the UCT Council.

If taken forward, any decision on the proposal will ultimately be made by Council as the university's highest decision-making body. Council will consider the proposal thoroughly before coming to any decision.

UCT has noted the surveys being ran by the SRC as well as by the employee union for professional staff. These too are important constituencies in the decision-making process at the university and whose voice will be taken into consideration.

As part of UCT's commitment to have an open engagement with staff and students, UCT will host an event under the topic "To vaccinate or not to vaccinate" on Thursday, 16 September. The session will be addressed by:

- Professor Linda-Gail Bekker (Director of the Desmond Tutu HIV Centre at the Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine, UCT and Chief Operations Officer of the Desmond Tutu Health Foundation)
- Professor Koleka Mlisana (Executive Manager: Academic Affairs, Research & Quality Assurance at the National Health Laboratory Service)
- Professor Shabir Madhi (Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences and Professor of Vaccinology at the University of the Witwatersrand).

The university continues to encourage students and staff to get vaccinated. Since the government opened vaccinations for those aged 18 and above from 1 September, the UCT executive has initiated discussions over what the opportunity for more members of the university campus to get vaccinated means for UCT.

The executive has started engagements with the relevant stakeholders within the campus community on possible scenarios. Once these engagements are concluded, UCT will provide an update.

UCT continues to run vaccination campaigns via the university's internal communication channels and social media platforms.

The university has launched a UCT Community of Hope Vaccination Centre at the university's Forest Hill complex in Mowbray in partnership with the Western Cape Department of Health. The site accommodates not only students and staff but the general public too. UCT views this as an important contribution to the communities that surround the university and use the public transport corridors in Mowbray.

The university has previously also put measures in place to support eligible members to receive their vaccination. For instance, during the period that was dedicated for vaccination in the post-school education sector in August, UCT made available transport from campus to the vaccination site in Pinelands.

Please see comment by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng, on the UCT vaccination site.

"The site is run by the Provincial Department of Health to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to UCT staff and students who meet the prescribed government eligibility criteria. The site is set up not only for the UCT community: access is available to members of the broader community who have been invited by the government to receive their vaccinations.

"UCT is making this site available to the provincial government as a way of giving back to the local community. We are providing the physical facilities. The provincial government is providing the vaccines as well as all personnel to manage the site, including medical, administrative and security staff members.

"The vaccination site serves as a reminder of two important facts: first, that UCT belongs to the wider Cape Town community who will benefit from the vaccines to be administered there; and second, that it takes all of us, working together, to reduce the threat of COVID-19 in our community."

ENDS

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

Elijah Moholola

Spokesperson
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