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**13 October 2021**

## UCT hosts engagement sessions on proposed vaccination policy

**READ:** The [full communication](#) by UCT VC, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng.

**LISTEN:** Short [audio recording](#) by UCT spokesperson Elijah Moholola.

**REGISTER:** Please RSVP [via email](#) should you wish to attend these sessions.

The University of Cape Town (UCT) will host virtual engagements with staff and students this week on the proposed policy on mandatory vaccination at UCT.

The [staff engagement session](#) will take place on Wednesday, 13 October 2021 from 11:15 to 12:45, while the [student engagement session](#) is scheduled for Thursday, 14 October 2021 from 10:15 to 11:45.

UCT Vice-Chancellor Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng said: "The University of Cape Town executive is supportive of a policy requiring mandatory vaccinations for UCT staff and students. We wish to meet staff and students to share our position and the reasoning behind it, give the context to that position and engage and receive input.

"The executive will, after taking into consideration the views of staff and students, form a final position on the matter that will then be tabled at Council at its meeting on Saturday, 16 October."

As part of starting this process, the executive has set up the two initial information sessions to include staff and students in this important discussion. Each session will include time for experts to present information on the science of vaccination and the UCT context.

Phakeng said it was important that the UCT community attend the sessions and that they submit any questions and comments they may have so that the executive can be as well informed as possible before the first discussion at Council.

UCT staff and students are also invited to complete a [short survey](#) expressing their views on a proposed policy. The survey will close on Thursday, 14 October at 18:00.

The UCT [Senate voted overwhelmingly in favour of mandatory vaccination](#) at their last meeting in September and the [UCT College of Fellows has released a statement supporting mandatory vaccinations](#).

Phakeng urged all UCT staff and students to attend the sessions so that the executive can hear their input and views on the matter. She further encouraged those who have not yet been vaccinated to do so as that will help keep down the rate and the severity of COVID-19 infection.

The UCT Community of Hope Vaccination Centre at Forest Hill Residence, with access from Broad Street, is open to staff, students and the general public from 08:00 to 15:00 on Monday to Friday.

***ENDS***

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

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