

Wednesday 18 March 2020 *(The protocol is dated as it may evolve)*

PROTOCOL FOR SUSPECTED/CONFIRMED CASES OF COVID-19 IN SU RESIDENCES

Prepare by doing the following:

1. Ensure that there is an up-to-date list (with contact details and the student number) of every student that is staying behind in the residence during this period.
2. Create a WhatsApp group with all these students and make sure that the Residence Head has speedy access to that group. This ensures that communication is quick and effective, especially in case of an emergency.
3. Liaise with the KDK to have a similar communication channel with staff that might work in the building, e.g. cleaning and catering staff.
4. Ask everyone in the residence to monitor themselves regularly for symptoms such as fever and dry cough.
5. If these symptoms are present, Campus Health should be contacted. Ensure that you have the Campus Health contact number readily available on your phone: (Office hours: (021) 808 3494/6; After hours: 076 431 0305)
6. If Campus Health indicates that the situation warrants a test for COVID-19, use your communication channel(s) to inform everyone in the residence and ask them to take extra care with social distancing while awaiting the test results.
7. If the test is negative, inform everyone on the WhatsApp group.
8. If the test is positive, ensure that Campus Health is informed. Ask all your students on the WhatsApp group to self-isolate and await further instructions from Campus Health.

Here are some guidelines from the World Health Organisation (16 March 2020) on what to do when someone in your household tests positive for the virus. It might give guidelines for a similar situation in a residence:

(Extracts from the WHO Director-General's opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19 –16 March 2020)

- Social distancing measures can help to reduce transmission and enable health systems to cope.
- Handwashing and coughing into your elbow can reduce the risk for yourself and others.
- Another option is for patients with mild disease to be isolated and cared for at home.
- Caring for infected people at home may put others in the same household at risk, so it's critical that care-givers follow WHO's guidance on how to provide care as safely as possible.
- For example, both the patient and their care-giver should wear a medical mask when they are together in the same room.
- The patient should sleep in a separate bedroom to others and use a different bathroom.

- Assign one person to care for the patient, ideally someone who is in good health and has no underlying conditions.
- The care-giver should wash their hands after any contact with the patient or their immediate environment.
- People infected with COVID-19 can still infect others after they stop feeling sick, so these measures should continue for at least two weeks after symptoms disappear.
- Visitors should not be allowed until the end of this period.

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