

COVID-19 Code of Conduct for students returning to campus

Introduction

Responding to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, we all have to work together in social solidarity to limit the spreading of the virus, prevent the healthcare system from being overwhelmed, and save lives. Besides the known measures to protect us effectively against the virus, the way the campus operates may also be unfamiliar at first.

To help orientate us in many of the new ways in which we are required to act, all returning students have to comply with a Code of Conduct as required by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) directions.

This Code of Conduct is an extension of the rules that bind all registered students of Stellenbosch University (SU). All students are required to adhere to the changes we made to the normal patterns of behaviour on campus and in residences to ensure that we all avoid risky behaviours.

This Code of Conduct refers to:

1. Your commitment and undertaking to follow safe hygiene inside the residence and on campus
2. Your commitment and undertaking to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms, using the [HigherHealth screening tool](#)
3. Your adherence to the self-isolation protocol
4. The rules in residences and on campus
5. Your co-operation in the possibility of having to move rooms
6. The diligent cleaning of surfaces
7. Restricted access to campus buildings
8. Any student showing symptoms of COVID-19
9. Amendments to the Code of Conduct

For frequently asked questions about the general functioning of campus, please visit the [COVID-19 page](#) on the SU website.

Frequently asked questions about the functioning of your faculty buildings are dealt with under COVID-19 information on the SU website at [Student FAQs page](#).

The following information is especially important:

1. Safe hygiene

(a) Being outdoors.

The transmission of the virus outdoors is considerably less likely than indoors. Well-ventilated rooms also decrease the likelihood of transmission. It is better to be outdoors when in the presence of others and to ensure that rooms are well ventilated when indoors, while also adhering to the measures listed in (b) and (c) below.

(b) Physical distancing and handwashing. The most effective way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is to ensure that we keep a safe distance from other people, wear a face mask when

we engage with others, wash our hands regularly, and cough or sneeze in our elbows. You are encouraged to take the following precautions:

- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water (at least for 20 seconds), or use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser to regularly sanitise.
- Always maintain a safe distance of at least 1,5m from others.
- Maintain a safe distance from anyone who is coughing or sneezing. Cover your nose and mouth with your bent elbow or a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth before you have washed/sanitised your hands.
- Clean all frequently touched surfaces with soap and water or household bleach/sanitiser before you touch them and after you used those surfaces.
- Avoid high-risk contact with sick people.
- Stay at home when you feel unwell or show any symptoms.
- If you have a fever, cough and have difficulty breathing, seek medical attention from Campus Health Services. Please call in advance (see contact details below).

(c) **Wearing a cloth mask.** Wearing a cloth mask is mandatory and reduces the risk of transmitting the disease. Wearing a mask also protects you from others that may be infected. You may infect others when you are infected, even before you show any symptoms or even in the absence of any symptoms. You must wear a cloth mask when you are in public, when you enter any campus building, or when you are in any common area in your SU student accommodation.

2. **Self-screening.** It is compulsory to do a daily self-screening (you can screen more than once a day) via the HigherHealth tool for access to any of the SU buildings, including residences and other accommodation. Please click [here](#) to complete the online form. You must complete the HigherHealth check honestly and with integrity. (Only self-screening via the web version will be accepted.) You may only travel to campus if you have a low risk/green status, otherwise self-isolate and contact Campus Health. You will be expected to produce the results of your HigherHealth screening (use the web version) when you enter SU buildings, so remember to make a screenshot of your screening result for the day. You may be required to show the outcome of your results multiple times while on campus.

Students in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (FMHS) should use the self-developed PowerApps Daily Monitoring Tool for all FMHS students who were invited back to campus for access at any of the SU buildings, including residences and other accommodation, and for University transport to clinical sites. You can access the tool:

- ONLINE – [CLICK HERE](#) (log in with your SU credentials and allow the App access to Office365; complete and submit)
- Download the PowerApps application on your mobile device
 - You can also download the PowerApps tool from Apple and Android stores
 - <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/power-apps/id1047318566>
 - <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.microsoft.msapps&hl=en>
 - Once installed, use the SU Daily Monitoring app

Please show your Green Clearance GRANTED notice to security to access all campus buildings. Staff will also be required to use their access card so that the University is able to produce a list of daily attendees. Please note that visitors will be screened and they also need to fill in the form. Students not able to show the FMHS PowerApps Daily Monitoring Tool will be expected to fill in the visitor's form.

3. Limited movement

- (a) **Limits on gatherings:** From time to time limits are set on the numbers of people at gatherings. Please be sure to adhere to these numbers.
- (b) **Limited movement:** Adhere to the protocols and restrictions with regard to the curfews and places that may be visited.
- (c) **Regular exercise:** If you are not self-isolating or in quarantine, we encourage you to use this opportunity to get out of your room, go for a walk and clear your head.

4. Self-isolation protocol. One of the most effective ways to limit the spread of the disease is for a community of students living together to create a protected community. For this reason, a self-isolation protocol is implemented in student communities living together.

- (a) A student should self-isolate in accordance with the protocol:
 - i. when the student either displays symptoms of COVID-19 or have been in high-risk (close) contact with a person that is confirmed to be infected; or
 - ii. where the student tested positive for COVID-19; or
 - iii. when the HigherHealth tool indicates self-isolation.
- (b) **Be aware that students may be subject to multiple periods of self-isolation.** In order to minimise the risk, please practise safe hygiene and do not put your student community at risk. We all rely on social solidarity during these times. Find the self-isolation protocol for students [HERE](#).

5. Amended rules in residences. The rules in residences have been amended to assist with maintaining a protected student community.

- (a) **Access to residences:** You will not be able to access residences between certain times. Currently those times are between 24:00 and 05:30. Although you may leave the residence during that time, you cannot enter the building during those times.
- (b) **No visitors:** No students will be allowed into a specific SU residential building/student accommodation if they do not have a placement in that SU residential building/student accommodation. No exceptions will be made.
- (c) **No social gatherings:** It is not allowed to have or to organise social gatherings with other people in residences or student accommodation.
- (d) **No alcohol:** This remains a rule at SU that no alcohol may be consumed or stored in any SU accommodation or on residence premises.

6. Moving rooms. Students may be required by their residence management to live in a room/facility other than the room they have been allocated at the beginning of the year in order to manage situations of self-isolation or to enable other practical steps for managing the COVID-19 pandemic. You may even be required to move multiple times.

7. Cleaning of surfaces. Please assist us by cleaning any touched surface(s) with soap and water or household bleach/sanitiser. Be sure to leave behind a clean and safe environment for those who share the common space and in the interest of social solidarity.

8. Restricted access to campus buildings or venues within student accommodation. The access to some venues, buildings and some facilities may be restricted when you return to campus. If

you receive a schedule to visit a lab, for instance, please adhere to those time slots to assist SU in its attempt to practise physical distancing and adhere to the DHET directions.

9. **Risky behaviour:** You must refrain from any risky behaviour that will jeopardise your health and the health of others.
10. **Showing symptoms of COVID-19.** If you believe that you may be infected with COVID-19, please contact **Campus Health Services** immediately. It is important to call your health practitioner first to inform them that you are planning to visit their premises, in order for them to prepare for safely receiving you.

Campus Health Services: Stellenbosch Campus
021 808 3496 / 3494

Campus Health Services: Tygerberg Campus
021 938 9590

Campus Health Services after-hours emergency number
076 431 0305

ER24 Emergency Service (afterhours medical assistance)
010 205 3032

COVID-19 Public Hotline
0800 029 999

COVID-19 Western Cape Provincial Hotline
021 928 4102

COVID-19 WhatsApp Number
060 012 3456

11. **Amendments to the Code of Conduct.** If any of the measures described in the Code of Conduct change because of a change in Alert Levels or the directions of the DHET, these will be communicated formally to you. Do not make your own deductions or interpretations that these measures have changed owing to any changes you may have read or heard about in the media or on social media.
12. **Assistance.** Remember, asking for help is never shameful. In the most extreme cases, asking for help can help save a life. When struggling, talk to friends, family or someone who will listen. Alternatively, contact our Centre for Student Counselling and Development on **021 808 4707** or supportus@sun.ac.za. Our 24-hour Emergency Service, in collaboration with ER24, is available at **010 205 3032**.
13. **Contravention of the Code of Conduct.** Any contravention of, or failure to comply with, the provisions of this Code of Conduct will constitute Disciplinary Misconduct and will be dealt with in terms of the provisions of clauses 8.3, 9.7 and/or 9.8 of the Disciplinary Code for Students of Stellenbosch University. If found guilty of contravening this Code of Conduct, students may face suspension for a specified period or expulsion from the University and/or residence.