

Protocol for student accommodation to deal with containment of COVID-19 virus during recess

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

These are the procedures and rules in place, following on the advice of health professionals, as also articulated by the World Health Organization (WHO)¹, and responding to the State of National Disaster:

The WHO stresses that:

- social distancing measures can help to reduce transmission and enable health systems to cope; and
- handwashing and coughing into your elbow can reduce the risk to yourself and to others.

We have seen a rapid escalation in social distancing measures here, like the closure of schools and the cancellation of sporting events and other gatherings.

Residents in residence

Let us lead through committing ourselves to personal and community responsibility. Now is our time to stand up and be the ones that others can count on.

1. Social distancing

No visitors will be allowed in the residences. We trust that all will adhere to this rule. It will be supported as follows:

- a) The student card of a resident will have a 24/7 anti-pass-back of 3 minutes. This means that, once you enter through a turnstile, you will not be able to use that card for a second entry within 3 minutes. You will, however, be able to leave on the exit side within the 3 minutes.
- b) This measure is effective only where there is a turnstile or sliding-door entrance. In other places, we ask the students in the residence to make the necessary arrangements to support the no-visitors rule.
- c) Student cards will not give entry to a residence between the hours of 23:00 and 06:00. Students will, however, still be able to leave between these hours.
- d) Please report a transgression of the no-visitor's rule as soon as you observe it to your residential head.

2. Practicing a sanitation routine

¹ WHO's Director-General's opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19 on 16 March 2020

- a) When you enter the residence, regardless of where you have been, your first action should be to wash your hands thoroughly or use hand sanitiser. In the absence of hand sanitiser at the door, residents should ensure that the closest wash basin is marked clearly and that soap is available.
- b) Wash your hands regularly and clean surface areas with a good household cleaner.

3. Communication

Join and stay on a WhatsApp group for quick and easy communication during your stay in the residence.

4. Vigilance

Be aware of the symptoms of a fever and dry cough. Report these to Campus Health at 021 808 3494/6 if these appear and notify your leadership (including your residence head) for guidance on what to do.

5. Social action

Volunteer on social media to be a fact checker – someone that intervenes when you read fake news. Volunteer to be the ones that help South Africa to act in a responsible way.

6. Operational matters

- a) Meals will continue to be served in residences but will not necessarily be prepared on site (provision will be made for halaal meals).
- b) PSO meals in open dining halls will be suspended. PSO students will be able to use facilities in the Neelsie, Padkos, Chalkboard and HRBH Deli.
- c) Students will not be able to eat in other residences within their cluster.
- d) The operating hours of the Neelsie will be adjusted. These hours will be communicated in due course.
- e) Laundry services will be available in residences. There will not, however, be any staff on duty to wash clothes.

7. Student Centre (the Neelsie)

The Neelsie has been closing at 21:00 since Tuesday, 17 March. From Friday, 20 March, and thereafter on weekdays as well, it will close at 18:00. Saturday trade is permitted between 07:00 and 12:00. From 12:00 on a Saturday, the Neelsie will be closed until 07:00 on the Monday morning.

Access control will be implemented at two entrances and the remaining entrances will be closed. From Monday (or when we receive hand sanitiser), all hands will be sprayed upon entry. The right of admission will be strictly enforced.