



COVID Protocol for Students in Academic Learning Spaces

This document is a **summary** of the most important protocols to which EMS students must adhere when attending classes. It does **not** contain the complete protocols for students when on campus, but only focuses on the academic learning spaces. This document (21 August 2021 version) will be updated as circumstances change. For the most recent version, see the landing page of the faculty website at www.sun.ac.za/ems.

1. GENERAL INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

All the information in this communication is available on a dedicated **COVID-19 page** on the SU website, which includes frequently asked questions (FAQs), as well as a record of all communiques and updates since the start of the pandemic. Students are encouraged to make extensive use of this valuable resource.

2. GENERAL SELF-SCREENING VIA HIGHER HEALTH PLATFORM (HHP)

Students will only be allowed access to academic buildings when the Higher Health Application on their phones is displayed and is GREEN. This will be checked at entrances to buildings and/or lecture halls. Without proof of self-screening on the app, students will not be allowed to enter buildings or lecture halls.

Higher Health's daily risk assessment tool, HealthCheck, is only available via the following URL: <https://healthcheck.higherhealth.ac.za>.

Students should **not** attend face-to-face sessions if they have any potential COVID-related symptoms. Stay at home if you begin to feel unwell, even with mild symptoms such as a headache and slightly runny nose, until you are fully recovered. Students who alter their answers or lie on the app are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

3. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

The wearing of masks is compulsory in lecture venues during the entire duration of every lecture, as well as in academic buildings and on campus in general.

As an additional safety measure, students may bring sanitizing spray to class and use it to disinfect the areas and surfaces where they sit. Students may use their own wipes but must ensure that they dispose of the used wipes in bins dedicated for this purpose.

4. CLASS GROUPS

As the COVID regulation level in the country changes, the capacity of lecture halls will be adapted accordingly. A student will therefore be invited by his/her lecturer (via SUNLearn) to attend face-to-face classes of that specific module. Do not attend face-to-face classes if you have not been invited by your lecturer via SUNLearn to do so even though you may know (from the timetable platform) where your class will take place.

5. LECTURE HALLS AND CLASSROOM BEHAVIOUR

At the entrance to each venue, students MUST tap their student cards at the card reader. In accordance with protocols, the attendance of staff and students will be registered on a database to make positive COVID tracking possible should it be necessary. Student class representatives will help monitor this. Students who do not have their student cards to tap the card reader, will not be allowed to attend the class. Make sure a light registers your card. It does not matter whether the light is red or green when you tap the reader – any colour light indicates that your card has been successfully scanned. This practice is compulsory. At classes where there are no card readers at the entrance, class attendance will be taken via different options as determined by the lecturer.

Please keep a 1,5 m distance between yourself and other people when you enter or leave a lecture hall. Some lecture halls will have dedicated entrance and exit doors. Please adhere to these arrangements to ensure minimal crowding at entrances.

Classroom seats will indicate where students may sit. Keep to those indicated seats; it ensures that social distancing is adhered to. In some lecture halls a system of red and blue dots will be used: in the case of sessions starting on even hours, students will sit at the BLUE dots and for odd hours, at the RED dots.

NO eating or drinking will be allowed in academic buildings.

6. STUDENTS AND STAFF WITH COVID-19 SYMPTOMS, HAD CONTACT WITH COVID POSITIVE PERSON OR TEST POSITIVE

Students with concerning COVID-19 symptoms, or those who have a potential close contact are encouraged to contact the Campus Health to discuss their symptoms. “Close contact” means that you had face-to-face contact within 1 metre or were in a closed-in space without ventilation, for more than 15 minutes with a person with COVID-19. This contact happened while the person with COVID-19 was still “infectious”, i.e. from 2 days before to 10 days after their symptoms began. Guidance will be given by Campus Health if a student should self-isolate or if testing is required.

If Campus Health advice you to quarantine for 10 days because of the close contact – you will have to quarantine for the full number of days, independent if you are showing symptoms or not, or have a negative Covid test during that period.

If you develop symptoms (without knowledge of having a close contact with a positive person), you must also quarantine for 10 days, counting from the day showing the symptoms.

If you have tested positive for the virus you must self-isolate for 10 days.

Should you have symptoms OR test positive, you must report the matter as follows:

- 6.1 Inform Campus Health Services via e-mail (chs@sun.ac.za). Should you need urgent advice, contact them on 021 808 3494/3496/3169. Campus Health will give you guidelines and advice on decisions regarding isolation and health risks.
- 6.2 Also report the matter to your lecturers. Specifically point out whether there were face-to-face classes which you attended during the relevant time (of your suspected infection), and specify the date, time and lecture hall.

Students in residences must refer to the protocols ([click here](#)) for isolation, quarantine and self-isolation. Although the document is applicable to students in residences, it also provides guidelines for students in other types of accommodation.

If your Covid symptoms are causing a serious health risk or emergency, please contact one of the following numbers:

- After hours medical emergencies only: 0764310305
- SU ER24 number for an ambulance: 010 205 3032
- Campus Security Stellenbosch 021 808 2333

7. STUDENTS AND STAFF WHO ARE FULLY VACCINATED OR HAD COVID IN THE PAST

Fully vaccinated persons adhere to the exact same protocols as non-vaccinated persons.

If you get COVID symptoms again within 1 month after testing positive call Campus Health for advice. Take note that it is not necessary to take another COVID test within that month, since the test usually remains positive for a full month after infection.

8. SYMPTOMS DURING CLASS

Should you experience COVID symptoms during class, please report this to the lecturer, immediately leave the class, avoid contact with other people, and phone SU Campus Health Services at the number above, or send an e-mail to report the matter.

After the student has left the classroom, the class will continue. Those students who have not kept a distance of at least 1,5 m from the possibly infected student during class, need to report to the lecturer, who will record their details for tracking purposes, if necessary.