



ITEM TITLE	COVID-19 Safety Protocols and Procedures for Student Residences
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1. Introduction

In response to the pandemic of COVID-19, the institution, including the student residences, put in place measures and interventions to ensure compliance with occupational health and safety prescriptions. Such necessitated the development of the Safety Protocols and Procedures for Student Residences.

2. Students staying in UJ residences

In anticipation of the nationwide lockdown, a number of students staying in residence opted to leave for their respective homes. Only 940 students remained in the residences during the lockdown period.

The decision of the government to move to level 3 of the lockdown, one-third of the residence students would need to return to residence. Therefore, it is very important to put in place the re-integration strategy in order to minimize the risks of infection and spread of the coronavirus. The re-integration is directed by the principles of phasing-in the return of students according to the requirements of different levels of the lockdown, e.g. one-third of students returning during the level 3 of the lockdown, provision of Personal Protective Equipment, etc.

The one-third students to return to residences should be identified by faculties, informed by the requirements of the student studies, e.g. clinical work, laboratory work, etc. Faculties would communicate lists of the identified students to Student Affairs for preparation and access control.

The approach to the re-integration will be through the following process:

- 2.1 The respective Executive Deans of the faculties would give permission for students to return to the University.
- 2.2 Student Affairs would, from the students approved to return to the University, identify those who stay in residence.
- 2.3 Upon arrival of the identified students at the University, students will be screened.
- 2.4 Once the screening has been done, and no symptoms related to COVID-19 show, the students will be permitted to move into identified space in residences.
- 2.5 South African students with history of exposure to or with symptoms related to COVID-19 will not be allowed to go into residence. They will be referred for testing.
- 2.6 International students with history of exposure to or with symptoms related to COVID-19 will not be allowed to go into residence, however, they will be provided with accommodation at a space identified for quarantining. They also will be referred for testing.
- 2.7 All students allowed to return as part of the one-third during level 3 lockdown will each stay alone in a room for at least 14 days to promote social distancing.

3. Residence Set-up and Safety Protocols

3.1 Residence entrance and exit points

- 3.1.1 As a measure of control, all residences shall make use of one point for entrance and exit.
- 3.1.2 Sanitising with sanitisers of at least 70% alcohol will be done at all entrance and exit points of the residences.
- 3.1.3 Every person accessing residence should have his/her mask on.
- 3.1.4 Screening will also be done at entrance and exit points of the residences.
- 3.1.5 The biometric system at residences has been deactivated to limit the risks. Students will be allowed to produce a form of valid identification to personnel of Protection Services and/or Student Affairs.
- 3.1.6 No visits will be allowed in the residences during the period of lockdown.
- 3.1.7 All students in residences will be required to sign in and out when coming in and going out of the residences.

- 3.1.8 Students will only be allowed to come in and go out of residences on essential reasons like going to buy food/groceries, libraries, seeking medical attention and any other permitted reason by the institution and/or government.
- 3.1.9 Members of staff, including cleaning, maintenance and/or security staff will also be required to complete a register before accessing residences.

3.2 Reception Areas

- 3.2.1 Every person at reception areas should have his/her mask on.
- 3.2.2 Acceptable distance (1.5m) between people will be indicated by distancing tapes and/or vinyl stickers on the floor.

3.3 Public Areas

- 3.3.1 Laundry facilities will only be opened between 8:00 and 16:00.
- 3.3.2 Doors to the public areas will remain open between 8:00 and 16:00 in order to minimize touches.
- 3.3.3 Students should keep a distance of 1.5m when preparing food.
- 3.3.4 All lifts in residences will be disabled. In cases where lifts cannot be disabled, signage will be put up to indicate that the lift buttons should be pressed elbows.
- 3.3.5 No gatherings or meetings will be allowed.
- 3.3.6 All bathrooms will be having liquid/gel “pink” hand soaps.

3.4 Covid-19 Safety visuals

3.4.1 Noticeboards and screens in residences will have posters and information about COVID-19. The information will include messages of awareness and measures to take. For example, information on the following:

- Dangers of the virus
- Personal hygiene
- Social Physical Distancing
- Use of masks
- Cough and sneezing etiquettes

- Information on screening and testing

3.5 Regulations for Self-Isolation, Isolation and Quarantine

- 3.5.1 The institutional regulations on self-isolation, isolation and quarantining will apply.
- 3.5.2 The contact details of members of staff of Student Affairs, Campus Health, Occupational Health, Occupational Safety and Protection Services will be made available to each residence.

4. Conclusion

More details on the Safety Protocols and Procedures, including information on COVID-19 are available on the Student Portal and University Web Platforms.