



**17 March 2020**

**Dear Staff and Students**

## **ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO LIMIT THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 AT UFH**

Management has met with the Extended Management Team and representatives from the UFH COVID-19 Task Team today to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the University. The UFH COVID-19 Task Team has drafted a recommended action plan for consideration. The following are additional measures agreed upon today to assist us in combating COVID-19 and protecting the University of Fort Hare community:

1. The University will be closing for an early recess from tomorrow, 18 March until April 15<sup>th</sup> 2020.
2. Students are strongly encouraged to evacuate residences and return home because the University does not have the requisite capacity to contain an outbreak of the virus should it occur. The matter of evacuation of residences is currently under discussion with the SRC and a final announcement will be made in due course.
3. Students may continue registering until Friday, 20 March 2020.
4. The University will use the recess period to improve its readiness to deal with COVID-19.
5. Staff are expected to be at their work stations unless they have taken leave. Divisional heads will make specific arrangements for each section.
6. Discussions are under way to make available 1<sup>st</sup> semester modules on online learning platforms and to provide requisite training to staff where required. The process of reviewing the academic calendar is constrained by uncertainties around COVID-19.
7. Contact group meetings will be limited and technology-supported meeting modalities will be encouraged and supported.
8. Graduation ceremonies for May are cancelled. Provision will be made for eligible students to receive their graduation certificates. In addition, students who would have graduated in May will be given the opportunity to participate in what will be an extended graduation week in September.
9. The prohibition on gatherings in excess of 100 persons applies. In addition, events such as conferences and public lectures to be hosted by the University are cancelled until further notice.

Staff and students who are concerned about symptoms should report to Sister Linda Simandla on 043 704 7616 or 073 112 6153. You may also call the COVID-19 helpline at 0800 029 999.

Sincerely

**Professor Sakhela Buhlungu**  
**Vice-Chancellor and Principal**