

NWU PROTOCOL FOR CONTACT TEACHING-LEARNING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Approved by the COVID-19 Transition Task Team on 11 July 2022.

As part of ensuring the continuity of the core business of the North-West University, the following protocols are provided the Teaching-Learning (TL) environment. The NWU remains committed towards creating a safe and healthy environment for its staff and students.

1 Scope and application

- 1.1 These protocols must be applied in a manner that is consistent with the:
 - 1.1.1 Occupational Health and Safety Act, 85 of 1993;
 - 1.1.2 Regulations relating to the Surveillance and the Control of Notifiable Medical Conditions Amendment, 2022 and other relevant sectorial guidelines for the management of COVID-19, as well as any other national health related legislation that may be promulgated from time to time;
 - 1.1.3 Relevant policies and rules approved by the University Council; and
 - 1.1.4 Any of the relevant standard operating procedures and guidelines as approved by the University Management Committee and/or COVID-19 Transition Task Team to manage the risks of COVID-19.
- 1.2 These protocols enable the continuation of business processes related to TL at the University.
- 1.3 These protocols apply to all permanent and temporary academic staff, support staff rendering services in the TL environment, students, student assistants, tutors, facilitators, interpreters and anyone else involved in TL at the University, in whatever capacity.
- 1.4 Non-adherence to these protocols by students will be subjected to the relevant disciplinary measures as provided for in the Policy on Student Discipline (2019).
- 1.5 Non-adherence to these protocols by staff, will be subject to disciplinary measures as provided for in the Staff Relations Policy (2019), Behavioural Manual and Conditions of Employment.

2 Effective date

These protocols were considered and approved by the COVID-19 Transition Task Team on 11 July 2022.

3 Vaccination

- 3.1 Vaccination against COVID-19 is currently proven scientifically to be the most effective means of mitigating the impact of transmission and severity of COVID-19 disease. Prevention of the transmission of the COVID-19 virus remains an effective and evidence-based method to curb and contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus.
- 3.2 The best way to reduce any risk of infection is vaccination, good hygiene, wearing a mask, avoiding direct or close contact with people and adequate ventilation.
- 3.3 The NWU strongly encourages students to be vaccinated against Covid-19, but the university has a non-mandatory stance on vaccinations, and any student may elect whether to be vaccinated or not.

- 3.4 Due to its non-mandatory stance on vaccinations, the NWU has to manage the health and safety of staff and students in the TL environment to mitigate the COVID-19 hazard and transmission of COVID-19 at the NWU.

4 Training and access management

- 4.1 All university students must complete the compulsory COVID-19 training available on eFundi.
- 4.2 Students who fail to complete this training will not be able to access campus, with their student access cards being blocked.

5 Visitors

- 5.1 Visitors to university campuses and university owned and managed facilities for TL purposes, by individuals or groups, are allowed and managed in terms of the NWU Standard Operating Plan: Covid-19 Occupational Health and Safety (dated 27 June 2022).
- 5.2 No special permission or notice is required, but all visitors must adhere to the protocols prescribed by the NWU.
- 5.3 The host of the visitor or group must ensure that visitors are informed of all NWU protocols and ensure that these are complied with.
- 5.4 The designated manager, OHS coordinator or host may prescribe any additional precautionary health and safety measures that may be relevant in particular circumstances.

6 Teaching-learning activities

- 6.1 All teaching-learning activities, including the following, are allowed, subject to the standard protocols listed in 6.2 below:
- 6.1.1 All teaching-learning activities requiring physical presence, including face-to-face contact sessions, tutoring, supplemental instruction, assessments, practical work in lecture venues, laboratories and other teaching-learning spaces;
 - 6.1.2 Meetings, consultations and academic work groups;
 - 6.1.3 Excursions for teaching-learning purposes, required practical work, work-integrated learning, service learning or field trips.
- 6.2 The following general control measures have been identified for all teaching-learning activities:
- 6.2.1 Students with COVID-19 symptoms are encouraged to stay at home and/or seek medical treatment at a health care facility or medical doctor.
 - 6.2.2 Staff and students who experience common cold symptoms are encouraged to wear a cloth mask, covering the nose and mouth, when participating in any teaching-learning activity.
 - 6.2.3 Any student or member of staff may elect to wear a mask, covering the nose and mouth, when participating in any teaching-learning activity and such choice will be respected.
 - 6.2.4 Implementation of the NWU cleaning and contamination protocols implemented by Facilities Management (daily/once off-cleaning) – specifically at access points and high-contact points).
 - 6.2.5 Venues must be adequately ventilated, as advised by the University's Occupational Health and Safety, Space Management and Engineering Compliance Department and all instructions related to ventilation (including opening doors and windows) must be adhered to.
 - 6.2.6 The maximum occupancy of a space (including a vehicle) may not be exceeded at any time.
 - 6.2.7 No crowding should occur at venues prior and after any activity, students should leave a venue and building after conclusion of an activity.
 - 6.2.8 The lecturer, tutor, facilitator or person conducting or leading the teaching-learning activity, must ensure adherence to prescribed precautionary health and safety measures that may be

relevant and may prescribe any additional precautionary health and safety measures that may be relevant in particular circumstances.

6.2.9 All attendees and participants to student activities should be encouraged to frequently sanitise their hands prior to entering the venue, when using shared equipment, and before, after or during student activities as identified below.

6.2.10 Students are encouraged to observe “sneezing and coughing etiquette”.

6.2.11 Physical contact such as hugging and/or shaking of hands should be avoided.

6.2.12 NWU Campus Health Care Centre (CHCC) will continuously monitor internal and external COVID-19 trends, cases and exposure risks, and advise accordingly. In the event of changes in COVID-19 trends, report measures such as contact tracing as instructed and required by national legislation and directives and guided by the NWU Campus Health Care Centre.

6.3 During excursions for TL purposes, required practical work, work-integrated learning, service learning or field trips, the activity monitoring officer, in collaboration with the event coordinator(s), may prescribe any additional precautionary health and safety measures that may be relevant in particular circumstances for example wearing scrubs with disposable PPE as required or using a surgical or NFP95 mask.

6.4 During excursions for TL purposes, required practical work, work-integrated learning, service learning or field trips, the host of any activity (including the employer for work-integrated learning) may prescribe any additional precautionary health and safety measures that may be relevant in the particular circumstances, including mandatory vaccination.

7 Personal Protective Equipment

7.1 All participants in any TL activity that requires the use of special Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), must be equipped with it prior to commencement of the activity.

7.2 The necessary sanitation equipment and products must be provided by the Faculty/School to participants prior to the commencement of the activity.

7.3 Where participants do not have their own PPE (or sufficient PPE) to partake in the activity, the Faculty/School must provide such.

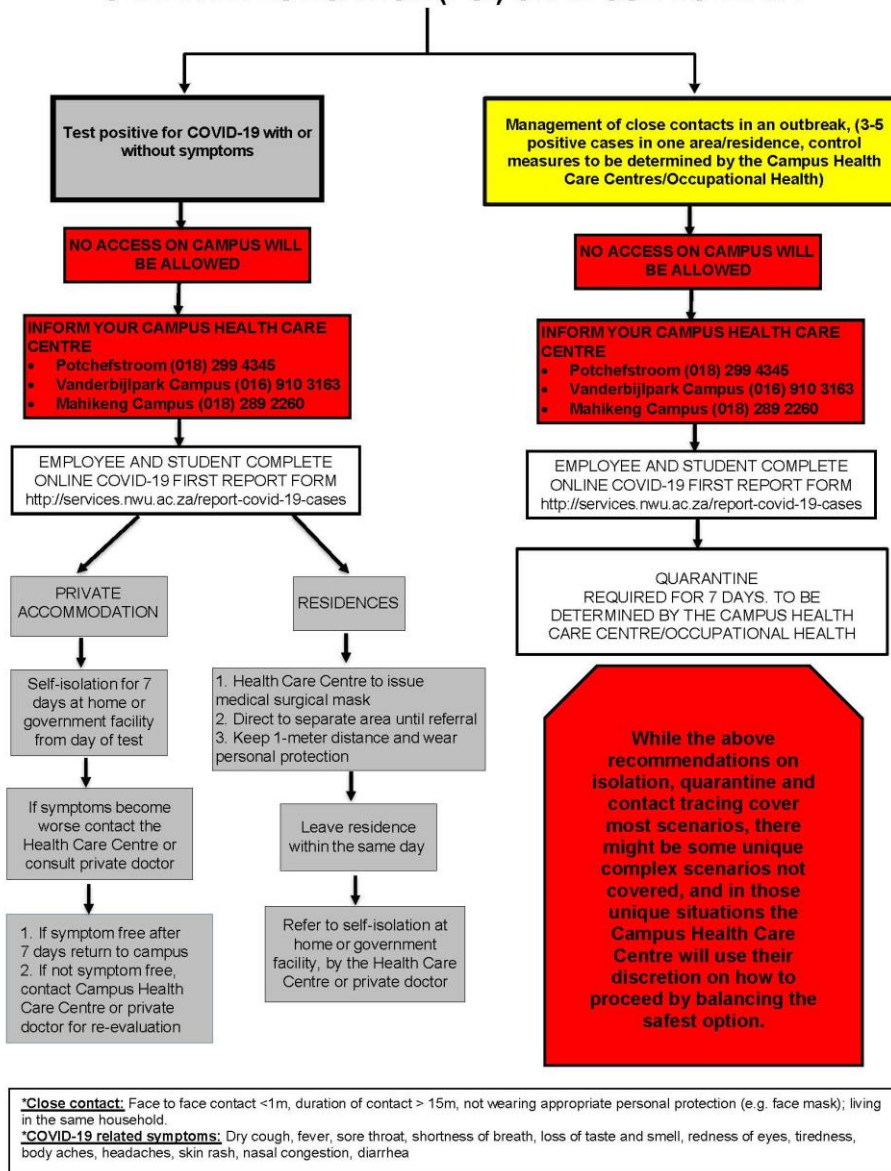
7.4 All types of PPE must fit properly and be periodically refitted, as applicable (e.g., respirators).

8 Reporting on COVID-19 and Standard Operating Procedure for possible COVID-19 infection

8.1 Staff and students who experience and/or exhibit any Covid-19 symptoms are required to report that in line with the Standard Operating Procedures that have been developed for infection control measures.

8.2 The following flow diagram illustrates the actions required when a student or staff member believes that they are infected:

PROTOCOL FOR A POSITIVE COVID-19 PERSON, PERSON UNDER INVESTIGATION (PUI) OR CLOSE CONTACT*



Mahikeng Campus	
Building:	Building B6
Telephone:	(018) 389 2907
Fax:	(018) 389 2034
Potchefstroom Campus	
Building:	Building E16
Telephone:	(018) 299 4345 (018) 299 4372
Fax:	(018) 299 4291
Vanderbijlpark Campus	
Building:	Building 25
Telephone:	(016) 910 3163
Fax:	23544260@nwu.ac.za