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OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR THE ARRIVAL OF STUDENTS AT RESIDENCES

The health, wellbeing and safety of our staff and students is of paramount importance. All decisions relating to a gradual phased, structured and highly risk-controlled return of students to campus informs these precepts.

As a student **invited** to return to campus, you are obliged to adhere to the precautionary measures in place. Before travelling to Makhanda all students are required to be under **mandatory self-quarantine** in their homes for 10 days. You are urged to make use of the Higher Health daily health assessment online App, and abide by all health and safety protocols. We advise all first years before travel, to do a daily health check using this **number: 060 011 0000. Save this number in your contacts and follow the prompts on how to do the daily check:** If the HealthCheck says "Clearance Denied", cancel/postpone travel to Makhanda until you receive health clearance. The University places a high priority on the health, safety and well-being of all students, staff and the greater Makhanda community. Should you feel any symptoms of a cold or flu coming on, while at Rhodes University, you need to inform the Health Care Centre during the day, and ER24 (010 205 3068) after hours.

The National Legislation and the Rhodes University guidelines and protocols must be adhered to at all times. Failure to adhere to them will not just place you at risk but the entire Rhodes University community and the surrounding Makhanda community of infection, with the potential for loss of life. Students who by their conduct place the well-being of other students at risk, may face exclusion from Rhodes University or from the residence system. Repeat offences will be dealt with strictly. The University shall not assist those who do not conform to National Legislation.

COMPLIANCE TO THE RULES and REGULATIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY

The constantly evolving situation brought about by COVID-19 and the well-being of our students being paramount, has necessitated adjustments to the Student Disciplinary Code. Students are required to sign on arrival a declaration that they will comply with the set terms and conditions of the University. Students who by their conduct place the well-being of other students at risk may face exclusion from Rhodes or from residence, particularly for repeat offences.

Of utmost importance, the following must be adhered to at all times:

- All staff and students will be required to do a daily COVID-19 screening using the HIGHER HEALTH Integrated Digital COVID-19 Screening System ("Health Check").
- All students and staff are required to wear a face mask at all times in public, except when eating or drinking.
- No physical contact with other people i.e. no handshaking and ensure that you sneeze and cough into your elbow or a tissue (safely discard the tissue immediately).
- All students and staff are expected to observe a physical distance of at least 1.5m from others.

Role of wardens, sub wardens:

All wardens, sub-wardens will ensure that all University protocols are followed.

Where students display/report symptoms, the wardens will refer them to the Health Care Centre for further

action.

ARRIVAL PROCEDURE AT RESIDENCES

If you have undergone the screening process, registered and have your student card issued, you will be able to proceed to your residence or to your off campus accommodation (digs) to settle in.

Screening at the Health Care centre (HCC) after registration weekend

The Health Care Centre is open from 08h00 – 16h30 and on weekends between 08h00 and 13h00. On arrival at the HCC you will be screened manually and you will be given two masks. You need to present the screenshot of your daily health check that you have done prior to travel when you go for screening.

Screening at Campus Protection Unit (CPU)

Any student arriving after 16h30 during the week and after 1pm on weekends, must report at CPU who will require students to fill in the screening form, check your temperatures and also issue you with two masks. You will be given a white permit card that confirms that you have been to the HCC/CPU on arrival.

Accordingly, upon your arrival in residence, you will be required to abide by the Rhodes 10-day limited movement period and any curfew regulations set during your stay by the University. This means there will be limited movement during this period as part of the strategy to curb the spread of COVID- 19. Therefore please ensure that you bring all personal essential items (such as toiletries, medication, water) from home with you.

Herewith the conditions of your stay under the Rhodes University Risk-Adjusted student return plan:

- No social, cultural or sporting gatherings will be allowed on campus.
- You are expected to stay in your residence room as much as possible except when required to attend to formal university activities or the Dining Hall.
- Also, you are only allowed to leave your room and the precinct of the residence to see a doctor or to go to the Health Care Centre
- For any other restricted face-to-face activities on campus, you will be guided by student leaders in your residence.
- In the common rooms, only 2 people are allowed at a time with a 1.5 metre physical distance.
- Visiting of any kind is prohibited. Students should not have any guests in their residence rooms including students from their residence.
- There is an absolute ban on alcohol. Alcohol is prohibited in residence and on Rhodes University campus.
- Students who are found to be intoxicated in residence or on campus will be disciplined in line with the University's prohibition of alcohol on campus..
- Any form of violence, excessive noise and any anti-social behaviour is strictly prohibited.
- It is **mandatory** to wear a face mask when outside one's university room except for when showering and when eating or drinking.
- Exercising in public is strictly prohibited during the first 10 days. After this period when exercising, always maintain physical distancing rules when in public.
- You are expected to adhere to the physical distancing rules of 1.5 metres, no hand shaking, hugging as well as all measures introduced by the university, including sanitizing and screening.

Please note: Over and above the conditions set out above, all policies and procedures governing students, including but not limited to the rules and procedures of the Student Disciplinary Code continue to apply. You are required to sign the declaration below, accepting the terms and conditions as set out above. Should you fail to do so, your acceptance into residence shall be immediately revoked.

DECLARATION OF COMPLIANCE TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF RHODES UNIVERSITY

I,..... (full name) hereby declare that I have read and understand the terms and

conditions as set out above and accept the terms and conditions.

Student Number: Signature: Date:

RESPONSE TO A POSITIVE CASE (S) IN THE RESIDENCES

- In the case of confirmed COVID-19 in a single or multiple persons in the residence, the Health Care Centre (HCC) with the Department of Health (DoH) will facilitate the move of the student(s) to the Frontier Hotel where the DOH has oversight of their wellness.
- The Warden must immediately contact the HCC to assist with identifying others who have been in contact with an infected person(s).
- Anyone who has been in direct contact with the individual who is tested positive for COVID-19 case will be required to self-quarantine for 10 days after exposure.
- In all of the above, confidentiality in the response of a positive case(s) is of paramount importance.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTION OF RESIDENCES/ROOMS

Residences are potential areas where spread may occur at a higher rate. This is because of many students being in a limited space, the same students using tables, chairs, and other amenities, which may spread the virus through droplet spread.

Housekeeping will assist students with cleaning/disinfecting of their rooms by providing cleaning materials as well as fresh linen. With this being said, students are expected to keep their rooms clean.

Of utmost importance are the following:

- All students must ensure they clean their rooms and wash their own linen regularly/exchange linen with housekeeping weekly as per standard arrangement.
- All students must understand the importance of washing hands and of cleaning their environments.
- Students should be encouraged to carry hand sanitizers to wash their hands regularly.
- Students should be encouraged to sanitize with hand sanitizer available at strategic points at lecture venues, biometric readers and in the residence.
- No other person may enter a student's room and thereby reducing any risk of infection.

DINING HALL ARRANGEMENTS

Dining Halls and serveries are demarcated with floor markings stickers at 2m intervals. The dining halls will have easily accessible hand sanitizer dispensers, are regularly cleaned and have open doors and windows to ensure proper ventilation. A maximum of 50% capacity including the dining hall staff will be allowed in the facility at any given time.

A staggered mealtimes' system will be observed, to allow students to keep to social distancing protocol.

Only students, wardens and their dependents who booked meals can access the dining hall.

No student or warden will be permitted to book meals for guests.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

Students are encouraged to seek help if they are feeling overwhelmed with emotions such as sadness, depression, anxiety, or feel like wanting to harm themselves or others by contacting the Counselling Centre at 046 603 7070 or email counsellingcentre@ru.ac.za.

If you feel overwhelmed by COVID-19 and associated events on campus, the Counselling Centre offers remote counselling. The Centre will also assist with information on the national helplines, such as the South African Depression and Anxiety Group 24-hour helpline 0800 456 789 and the suicide line 0800 567 567.

If you need any further clarity on the document, please do not hesitate to contact your Warden or sub-warden in your residence or Oppidan Hall.