

12 June 2020

To all Students, Parents, Guardians, Sponsors and Staff

Partial Re-Opening of Campuses Under Lockdown Level 3

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information on the partial re-opening of campuses under Lockdown Level 3.

Informed by the guidelines provided by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) under lockdown level 3 regulations, Educor has developed a framework to return select cohorts of students and staff to campus in a phased and well-coordinated approach. As you well know, South Africa remains in a State of National Disaster and in lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The safety of students and staff remains a priority for all education institutions as the sector continues to implement a risk-adjusted strategy. No doubt there are many questions that you may have in this regard and we will endeavour to address them in this message and further communication in the coming weeks.

With a national footprint of over 25 campuses across seven different institutions, the Educor operations team have been busy this past fortnight with the preparation of campuses for the phased-in return of select student groups as permitted by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Dr Blade Nzimande. As institutions, we are only permitted to partially re-open to a maximum of one-third of the total student population under Lockdown Level 3.

The following student groups have been identified to return in phases during the months of June and early July 2020:

1. **Final-Year Students:** Damelin, City Varsity and ICESA students enrolled in the final year of studies and who are expected to graduate at the end of the 2020 academic year are permitted to return to campus on 6 July 2020. Each institution will communicate with their final year students on these plans over the coming week in this regard.
2. **Specific Programmes with Special Practical Requirements:** Students who require access to studios, laboratories, technical equipment, practical work and special software needed for curriculum delivery will be advised about the date of their return to campus early in July 2020.

The phasing-in of the rest of the students will be informed by the guidelines received from the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, and we will advise accordingly.

Safety protocols on campus

Our focus is the health and safety of our students and staff while striving to complete the 2020 academic year. It is critical that we adhere to the safety protocols as prescribed by government to ensure that campuses are ready for the small percentage of students identified to safely return over the coming weeks while we remain under Lockdown Level 3.

It is mandatory that all staff and students will be screened on entry to the campus and everyone is required to wear a face mask, maintain social distance and sanitise their hands regularly. Please note that students will not be allowed onto campus without a face mask covering their nose and mouth.

Remote teaching and learning with virtual classes will continue

This gradual and phased return of students to campus will not impact on the online remote teaching and learning which will continue in *myClass*, the online learning management system. All institutions will continue with remote, digitally enhanced online teaching and learning for all students, including those groups identified above who will return to campus under Lockdown Level 3.

This means that, while 33% of our students may return in June and early July, students will not be on campus for the full hours in the day nor for the full five days in the week.

The timetable of weekly virtual classes commenced on 11 May 2020 and we have already increased the number of virtual classes for each module to at least two online hours per week from 1 June 2020. These will continue and students are able to access their virtual timetables via the student portal in *myClass*.

The combination of virtual classes in *myClass* and some face-to-face or contact classes on campus will form the blended learning model in the months ahead.

Amended academic timetables, calendars and assessment schedules

Academic calendars and assessment schedules have been amended and each institution will publish these separately in the next week together with the details on the electronic submission requirements for individual assignments, online MCQs, tests and end of Semester 1 examinations. Please find a copy of the provisional amended Academic Calendars attached in the interim.

All content for the first semester is available in *myClass* and is divided into weekly units to assist students in their learning and revision.

We encourage students to work through the revision quizzes in *myClass* and to complete the multiple-choice questions (MCQs) which are available as they cover the work of the first semester of 2020.

We have planned for small class tutorials to be held on campus for different groups on different days and these on-campus timetables will be sent to the impacted students under a separate communication.

Data deal for students

The Educor IT team have managed to arrange a special data deal with Vodacom for our students. To qualify for this great deal, each student must first complete the registration form via this link:

<https://bit.ly/3i1tfzJ>

The cost of the data deal for the student's cost is as follows:



BUNDLES	Anytime/URL Data	Night Owl Data	Deal Price
	10GB	20GB	R99
	20GB	20GB	R199
	40GB	80GB	R299

*expires after one month



Conclusion

We will notify all eligible students individually as soon as possible of any further return dates as we await the Minister to gazette the regulations for the return of additional students to campus.

We are aware that these arrangements will entail many inconveniences for many students, including the disappointment for many more students who wish to return to campus. Nevertheless, within the strict and specific Government requirements, we have tried to be as fair as possible to all our students. Therefore, I must ask that any student who is not deemed eligible and approved for return to campus to continue to observe the lockdown and refrain from trying to enter the campus. To do so would place additional strain on campus security and pose a health risk to our students and staff.

I am very grateful to those staff, and to the support staff on our campuses, for their hard work in ensuring that our partial re-opening runs smoothly and safely.

Further details in relation to the return of all our students the campus will follow as soon as possible after we are notified by the Minister.

The COVID-19 infection rate in South Africa continues to increase. We all must remain vigilant and adhere to all the safety protocols to protect ourselves, our fellow students, our staff and our families.

Our students are strongly encouraged to understand what is expected of them in following the regulations for each Lockdown level.

Once again, I wish to stress and advise that our students should not attempt to access campus without having received direct instructions from us to do so. Students must continue to access the student portal online for virtual classes and supported learning in myClass.

Sincerely



Anne Whaits
Chief Academic Officer