



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, WEST INDIES

INTERNAL COMMUNIQUÉ

June 7, 2020

Two Halls of Residence at UWI St. Augustine Designated Temporary Stepdown Facilities for UWI Students

Dear Colleagues,

The UWI is proud to be a partner in the management of the region's response to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Our people have been at the frontline charting the way forward in every sphere. As you are aware, the St. Augustine Campus is a key collaborator in the national response here in Trinidad and Tobago. I write to share today an extension of this partnership as we continue our national service.

On Monday, June 1, I approved the use of two additional Halls of Residence - **Canada Hall** and **Freedom Hall**, as a step-down facility **for our students returning home** later this month. These two halls join the existing occupation at the South Campus, Penal-Debe to bring the full complement to three step-down facilities provided to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago by The UWI St. Augustine. These additional halls of residence will be used, under direction of the local authorities, to house the UWI students who are T&T nationals returning from our sister Campuses at Cave Hill and Mona. These students will be housed in quarantine in accordance with the national guidelines.

The management of the sites will be done by the state, working with the relevant UWI authorities including Campus Security Services, the Division of Facilities Management (DFM) and the Occupational, Health, Safety and the Environment (OHSE) Unit among others.

Also note the following specific details of this arrangement:

- Staff responsible for administering care of the individuals in quarantine and the management of the site will be housed at the **University Inn and Conference**

Centre (which has been closed from normal operations since the middle of March). This includes Ministry of Health Officials and members of the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force (TTDF). The TTDF will be responsible for operation, security and maintenance of the facility while it is used for quarantine purposes.

- Isolation space on the halls has also been designated **if** persons develop symptoms.
- The areas will be cordoned off to restrict access only to any unauthorised persons. Specifics of this will follow when confirmed.
- Custodial services will also be managed by the non-UWI staff on site, with personnel being trained to follow the Ministry of Health and other recommended protocols for COVID-19 cleaning and disinfecting.
- The agreement for use of the Halls of Residence ensures that once the individuals have been discharged, the sites will be fully cleaned and sanitised before they are handed back to The UWI.

We will continue to keep you informed as this arrangement progresses.

Professor Brian Copeland

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal

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