



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

INTERNAL COMMUNIQUÉ

June 30, 2020

Update on Quarantine Facilities at the St. Augustine Campus

Dear Colleagues,

As you know, we at The UWI are part of the nation-wide effort to address the COVID-19 emergency and protect lives. We have been using some of our facilities for quarantine and utilising all COVID-19 protocols, including testing. Today a Trinidad and Tobago national in a quarantine facility on the St. Augustine Campus tested positive for COVID-19. This was reported officially in the [Ministry of Health's 10:00am Press Release](#) this morning. The national returned from Barbados and was part of the contingent placed in quarantine at one of the designated Halls of Residence.

This is a time of anxiety for many of us; please know that Campus Management is committed to continuing to provide a safe work environment, under the guidance of the Ministry of Health. For this case, I ask that you also note that the relevant Health Authorities are closely managing the situation so as to mitigate risk, as they have done for the national landscape. As a quarantine facility, there are specific infection control protocols followed by the Health Care professionals. As such, we have been assured by the Ministry of Health that the risk to surrounding operations is managed.

Management of the quarantine facilities remains in the hands of the state, working with the relevant UWI authorities. The Campus continues to follow the guidance of the Ministry of Health through the North Central Regional Health Authority (NCRHA). The following specific details of this arrangement are still in effect and include:

- NCRHA Personnel responsible for administering care of the individuals in quarantine and the management of the site are housed at the **University Inn and Conference Centre** (which has been closed from normal operations since the middle of March) as well as the Freedom Hall Postgraduate flats. This includes Ministry of Health

responsible for operation, security and maintenance of the facility while it is used for quarantine purposes.

- Isolation space on the halls has been designated.
- The areas are cordoned off to restrict access to all except authorised persons.
- Custodial services are being 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.

It is important to continue following all the established protocols for physical distancing, wearing of masks, washing hands with soap and water, staying home if you are sick, having a healthy diet, and keeping routinely used areas clean at all times.

We will continue to keep you informed of any new developments in this evolving situation. Please rest assured that UWI staff and students remain our absolute priority even as we contribute to the national effort to safeguard all.

Professor Brian Copeland

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal

The Marketing and Communications Office

The University of the West Indies St. Augustine Campus • St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago

Telephone: (868) 662-2002 Exts. 82315/82316/82323/82324/82013/82014

Fax: 645-6396/662-3858 email: marketing_communications@sta.uwi.edu