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## Media Statement on HIGHER HEALTH's Efforts to curb the Novel Corona Virus – COVID 19 in the Post School Education and Training (PSET) Sector

To: All Media

19 March 2020

### HIGHER HEALTH to conduct training for all Higher Education Health Care workers and staff on COVID-19

**Pretoria – 17 March 2020** - The Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Dr Blade Nzimande, has tasked HIGHER HEALTH to ensure that they work with every public university and TVET college within the PSET to deal with COVID-19.

In response to this mandate, HIGHER HEALTH has set in motion the following:

**i. Post School Education and Training Guidelines on COVID-19:**

HIGHER HEALTH is coordinating the development of national guidelines for the post schooling education and training sector on the COVID-19 outbreak. The draft guidelines have been developed and are currently undergoing another review process to align the draft with the President's State of the Nation address on COVID-19, on 15 March 2020, as well as the directives taken by the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology in consultation with the sector and stakeholders. The review process will be finalised before the end of the week and we will share the final guidelines with the sector by early next week.

**ii. HIGHER HEALTH COVID-19 Communication Campaign**

HIGHER HEALTH will be embarking on a communication campaign that involves the development of information, education, health promotion materials (such as pamphlets and posters), protocols and health alerts, in collaboration with WHO, NICD and DOH, which will be distributed via our extensive peer-to-peer networks across our campuses and via social media. HIGHER HEALTH is currently developing radio content on COVID-19 awareness that will be rolled out as early as next week, through our associated 20 campus and community radio stations that are part of HIGHER HEALTH's flagship Future Beats multi-media programme.

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### iii. Training and Capacity Development Workshop for All Higher Education Health Care Workers and Staff on COVID-19

Higher Health in partnership with the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) and the Department of Health has tailor-made the training module specifically for the Post Schooling sector in consideration of the unique environment, demands and challenges of each institution. The training will include the following aspects:

- Preparations and state of readiness to deal with reported cases of COVID-19 Virus on the campuses
- Clinical presentation and management of suspected cases
- Criteria for persons under investigation
- Infection control methodology
- Testing mechanisms and process
- Case notifications and linkage to are
- Myths, stigma and prevention guidelines

The details of the training are as follows:

**Date:** 19 March 2020, Thursday

**Time:** 14h00 to 16h00

**Options to join the training:**

- Join Zoom Meeting:
  - <https://nicd.zoom.us/j/675972570>
  - Meeting ID: 675 972 570
- One tap mobile
  - +27875503946,675972570# South Africa
  - +27875517702,675972570# South Africa
- Dial by your location
  - +27 87 550 3946 South Africa
  - +27 87 551 7702 South Africa
  - Meeting ID: 675 972 570
  - Find your local number:  
<https://nicd.zoom.us/u/aeyGhXnYAf>
- Join by Skype for Business
  - <https://nicd.zoom.us/skype/675972570>

RSVP to [rsvp@higherhealth.ac.za](mailto:rsvp@higherhealth.ac.za)

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HIGHER HEALTH - Executive Manager in the CEO's Office & Mr Simba Honde – 078 136 5748 [simba@higherhealth.ac.za](mailto:simba@higherhealth.ac.za) - HIGHER HEALTH Communications Officer**

#### About HIGHER HEALTH

HIGHER HEALTH is a national entity that works on behalf of the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and in partnership with Universities South Africa (USAf - the governing body for the public universities) and with the South African College of Principals Organisation (SACPO - the governing body for the Technical

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and Vocational Education Colleges -TVET), 26 public universities and 50 TVET colleges across South Africa. HIGHER HEALTH is dedicated to promoting the health and wellbeing of nearly two million students in the post-school education system. Our structures, implementing programmes, campaigns and a wide spectrum of health, wellness and psychosocial services cover over 420 campus sites, and rural, informal and urban settings across all 52 districts. The organisation achieves its goals in partnership with allied government departments, UN agencies, development agencies, the private sector and civil society organisations across South Africa. It operates through 70 district-based offices, three regional offices (based in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town) and a national office in Centurion.

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