

From: VCO News VCO.news@wits.ac.za
Subject: WITS COVID-19 UPDATE 17 (STAFF) - WITS TO REOPEN ON 20 APRIL 2020
Date: 25 March 2020 at 20:00
To: VCO News VCO.news@wits.ac.za



MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRINCIPAL

Dear Colleagues

[\[WATCH\]](#) Wits Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Adam Habib speaks on living through the COVID-19 pandemic and expresses his appreciation to staff – academic, professional, administrative and essential staff for their contribution during this period.

The target date for Wits to reopen is 20 April 2020, in line with the rest of the higher education sector, but this is dependent on how the pandemic evolves. The mode in which the second block is likely to be online and staff are thus advised to [prepare to take teaching online](#) with the support of Wits ICT, the Centre for Learning, Teaching and Development, and Faculty Teaching and Learning units. Students will also require additional support when contact teaching resumes in the form of additional lectures, tutorials and boot camps, as appropriate.

The video addresses issues related to the digital divide, access to smart mobile devices and data, and the University's agreements with ICT providers to [zero-rate sites](#). Wits has reached out to broadcasting houses to determine if they can provide a solution to reach 10% of Wits' students who do not have access to smart mobile devices. Faculties should also explore other practical ways in which this can be achieved.

[\[WATCH\]](#) the video on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/j04CjIrq92M>

Read the latest updates at www.wits.ac.za

Thank you