



# HIGHER HEALTH

Higher Education and Training  
Health, Wellness and Development Centre

## Student Volunteer Protocol for COVID-19 Programme within the Post School Education & Training (PSET) Sector

7 May 2020

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## **Preamble**

The rapidly expanding epidemic of the severe COVID-19 has placed significant need for a screening protocol at each campus. HIGHER HEALTH is supporting DHET and all the Post-School Education and Training (PSET) sector institutions, which includes Universities, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Colleges and Community Education and Training (CET) Colleges, in its efforts to combat COVID-19.

HIGHER HEALTH will be supporting campus efforts to ramp up education on COVID-19 as well as COVID-19 screening for all students and staff entering the campuses post lockdown. Further to this, HIGHER HEALTH is also putting infrastructure in the form of clinical services towards increasing testing for students and staff who are screened positive or considered high risk for COVID-19. This being a notifiable disease, quick isolation of students and staff that are screened and tested positive is critical towards limiting further spread. HIGHER HEALTH has developed this protocol which serves as a guideline for student volunteers within the PSET sector to adhere to strictly. The operational measures outlined herein are to assist and guide both institutional and HIGHER HEALTH management on the student volunteer programme across all campuses. Student Volunteers will engage in screening, education and advocacy (SEA) and referral for testing around COVID-19.

## **Who can be considered as a Student Volunteer?**

- HIGHER HEALTH is calling upon all registered students (aged 18 or above) to enroll in the Student Volunteer programme
- Students are encouraged to volunteer their time to support their peers towards the daily education and screening programme combating COVID-19 within their respective campuses
- International experience shows that certain people are at higher risk for severe disease. Thus, a student should not volunteer if they have any underlying medical condition/s that compromise their health or immunity
- In addition to the above point, students should not volunteer if:
  - They are pregnant
  - They are living in the same home with a compromised family member (someone aged 60 years and above or someone with any underlying conditions)

## **Functions of a Student Volunteer**

- Student Volunteers will be required to support their institutions with health education information that will be given to students about COVID-19, using the Health Promotion and Prevention Strategy
- Student Volunteers will carry out screening of students in designated areas, using the verbal screening tool (no physical contact)
- Student Volunteers will work under the guidance of their team leaders (CHWCs) where present, Peer Mentors or other TVET/University campus assigned staff
- Student Volunteers will have to follow strict institutional protocol with regards to students and staff that may report or present with COVID-19 symptoms
- Should the Student Volunteer want to withdraw from the programme, they are free to do so at any time

## **Protective Personal Equipment (PPE) Precautions & Prevention for Student Volunteers**

- Strict PPE precautions to be observed by Student Volunteers:
  - Always maintain social distancing by keeping 2 meters away from any person
  - No physical contact with other people i.e. no hand shaking and ensure that you sneeze/cough into your elbow or a tissue (safely discard the tissue immediately once done)
  - No hand to hand contact through the exchange of paper, cellphone devices, or any other material or commodity
  - Mandatory use of face masks always
  - Continuous use of hand sanitizer
  - Screen shields to be used at all workstations during triage to minimize direct contact between Student Volunteers, students and staff
- PPE will be provided to the teams that will be screening students at campuses, in keeping with the national guidelines on PPE
- Student Volunteers will be provided with hand sanitizer and a facial mask by the team leader.
- Daily, all Student Volunteers will self-screen using the screening App which will be confirmed by their respective team leaders

## **Benefits for Student Volunteers**

- There are no immediate benefits to you for volunteering your time
- Such an activity will be recognized as noble and socially responsible

- A Certificate of Appreciation will be given to each Student Volunteer at the end of the programme
- Each Student Volunteer will also receive a token of appreciation from HIGHER HEALTH in lieu of their contribution to the programme
- The efforts of Student Volunteers will help in saving many lives of students and staff in the Post-School Education and Training (PSET) sector

### **Student Volunteer Capacity Development**

- HIGHER HEALTH will capacitate Student Volunteers on COVID-19 through education, training, onsite mentorship, coaching and routine monitoring around prevention, screening protocols, PPE, linkage to care, mental health, environmental cleaning and disinfection
- Data free links to curriculums on COVID-19 will be shared with Student Volunteers
- Student Volunteers are expected to carry out duties in accordance with the skills received
- Each aspect of the work (screening, education and advocacy) may have overarching or specific requirements that volunteers will be guided on
- No Student Volunteer will commence activities without the necessary capacity development and training

### **Screening**

- Student Volunteers will be expected to be part of the HIGHER HEALTH team triaging students on campuses in a safe and responsible manner
- Ideally students will be expected to self-screen off campus using the HIGHER HEALTH Screening App which will be deployed to students prior to them returning to campus. The App will advise on whether it is safe for students to proceed to campus or not.
- In the case where students may not be able to access the App for whatever reason, the trained student volunteers on campus will screen these students before they enter learning spaces within the campus i.e. preferably at campus entrance/s or car parks
- Students should be informed that there is a screening station (at a designated area) and that they are encouraged to present themselves to these stations if they do not have access to the Screening App or have not yet screened for the day
- Student Volunteers will engage in screening that involves no physical contact (“no touch”), maintain social distancing, ensure wearing of a face masks and preferably each volunteer will be in a booth or cubicle that separates the student volunteer from the person being screened

- If booths/cubicles are not available, then the Student Volunteer will have a face shield to wear
- Maximum of two points of control for walk-ins and drive-ins is recommended
- Student Volunteers, along with campus security, must ensure all students maintain social distancing, wear face masks and receive hand sanitizer on entry/exit of the campuses

### **Education**

- Student Volunteers will assist in the distribution of pamphlets on campus to educate students on COVID-19 (pamphlet distribution should be accompanied by other health promotion information)
- The Student Volunteers will also encourage and assist students to access the self-screening App regularly to ascertain whether they should seek further medical attention in relation to any symptoms displayed
- Student Volunteers are to assist the SLOs & CHWCs with displaying the educational posters on COVID-19 supplied by HIGHER HEALTH
- Constant dissemination of authentic information is required
- Once capacitated, Student Volunteers will be immediately required to empower fellow students on the importance of hand hygiene, social distancing and other measures

### **Advocacy & Stigma**

- Student Volunteers will play a crucial role in advocating against COVID-19 associated stigma
- HIGHER HEALTH will capacitate all student volunteers on the myths vs realities of the Coronavirus
- The information transferred to Student Volunteers should also be relayed to the larger student population through the Student Volunteers
- Disseminate the message that COVID-19 associated stigma cannot be tolerated as it can negatively affect the willingness of people, especially students, from getting screened and ultimately tested

### **Linkage Support**

- Student Volunteers will be trained on and expected to link symptomatic students on campus for testing
- Student Volunteers will need to firstly isolate symptomatic students to sick bays on campus
- With the assistance of the CHWC or team leader, Student Volunteers will promptly ensure symptomatic students are then tested and linked to care
- Student Volunteers will follow up on tested students post testing to provide support remotely

## General

- Every Student Volunteer is required to sign a consent form prior to joining HIGHER HEALTH'S COVID-19 Programme (See Annexure A)
- **Duration of this intervention:** The Student Volunteers will serve on the campuses as Colleges/Universities re-open in a phased manner
- **Multi-Sector Coordination:** HIGHER HEALTH will partner and coordinate the response on COVID-19 with the Department of Higher Education & Training, Department of Health, TVET and University Management, Student Leadership and other partners working in common cause

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**ANNEXURE A: Student Volunteer Consent Form**



**STUDENT VOLUNTEER CONSENT FORM**

**SCREENING AND CONTACT TRACING WITHIN THE POST SCHOOL EDUCATION & TRAINING SECTOR**

*This consent must be completed by all student volunteers*

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (name & surname)  
I.D Number \_\_\_\_\_, wish to be considered for volunteer work through  
**HIGHER HEALTH'S COVID-19 SCREENING & TESTING PROGRAMME** at TVET Colleges and/or Higher  
Education Institutions from May 2020 onwards. I am a student at \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ Campus.

I understand that I will be provided with the best available information and Personal Protective Equipment necessary for the safe and responsible performance of my volunteer assignment. I understand and accept the conditions and precautions laid out in the student volunteer protocol. I also indemnify HIGHER HEALTH and my campus against any liability as a result of my voluntary participation. I will also maintain strict confidentiality and professionalism whilst undertaking duties and responsibilities as a volunteer.

I understand that I will not receive any monetary compensation for my services but may receive an incentive of some sort.

**Emergency Contact:**

In an emergency please contact my Next of Kin using the following details:

Name of Next of Kin: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Next of Kin Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

In the unfortunate event of an accident or an illness, during the voluntary work, which needs immediate treatment, I agree to receiving First Aid and/or medical treatment.

**Signature of volunteer:**

**Name & Surname:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_