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**DENTISTRY**

**WRITE A REPORT OF NOT MORE THAN TWO PAGES, ON CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF THE MOVEMENT OF NIGERIANS**

**INTRODUCTION**

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus.

It was discovered on December 31, 2019 when the World Health Organisation (WHO) China Office heard the first reports of a previously-unknown virus behind a number of pneumonia cases in Wuhan, a city in Eastern China with a population of over 11 million.

Data has shown that it spreads from person to person among those in close contact (within about 6 feet or 2 meters). The virus spreads by respiratory droplets released when someone infected with the virus coughs, sneezes or talks.

COVID-19 symptoms can be very mild to severe. Some people have no symptoms. Mild symptoms may include fever, fatigue, cough, sore throat, headache, and decreased sense of smell or taste. More severe symptoms may include shortness of breath, chest pain, severe vomiting and diarrhoea. Symptoms may appear two to 14 days after exposure.

A vaccine is not currently available for the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). No antiviral medication is recommended to treat COVID-19. Treatment is directed at relieving symptoms.

About 2,014,046 cases, deaths of 127,595 people, and recovery of 419 841 people has been confirmed globally as of now 15th of April 2019.

**CORONAVIRUS IN NIGERIA**

The Federal Ministry of Health has confirmed a coronavirus disease (COVID-19) case in Lagos State, Nigeria. The case, which was confirmed on the 27th of February 2020, is the first case to be reported in Nigeria since the beginning of the outbreak in China in January 2020.

The case is an Italian citizen who works in Nigeria and returned from Milan, Italy to Lagos, Nigeria on the 25th of February 2020. He was confirmed by the Virology Laboratory of the Lagos University Teaching Hospital, part of the Laboratory Network of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control.

**EFFECTS OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) IN NIGERIA**

The virus has adversely affected the country’s social, political and economic sectors, among others. For instance, banks have not been able to open in fully for business to enable financial transactions, civil servants are unable to go to work because of partial or full lockdowns, thereby making governments at the federal, state and local government levels to lose enormous revenue. Nigerians who earn their income from daily trades and exchange of goods and services have been unable to make ends meet as a result of lockdowns. This has put pressure on the government to look for a way of giving Nigerians in this category some palliatives.

The global effect of the virus on international trade and commercial activities also led to the drop in the price of crude oil, thereby reducing drastically, the earnings of oil-producing countries. The implication of this is that smaller fund will the available for these governments to implement their budgets and other economic plans.

In addition, Lawmakers have suspended sittings at the National Assembly as well as state legislative assemblies. Governance seems to have come to stand-still and courts have adjourned sittings unless for emergency cases. Schools have been shut and students sent home.

As part of attempts to limit the spread of COVID-19, governments have instituted lock-down measures and banned public gatherings. Lagos, Abuja and Ogun States, with the highest cases of Coronavirus has been put on a total lockdown for about 3 weeks because they want to limit the spread of the virus. As such, attempting to enforce a ban on religious gathering have put the state government at odds with powerful religious leaders whose co-operation is fundamental, given their influence. However, some of the religious leaders have seen reason to cooperate with the government.

Two weeks ago, the federal government ordered the lockdown of the three key states, Lagos, Ogun and Abuja to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus. Residents were advised to stay at home and observe the lockdown. However, criminal gangs have begun to storm neighbourhoods to rob residents of their belongings and some went to the extent of robbing homes because of food to eat. Lorries that were supposed to be used to deliver food to the poor because of the lockdown were hijacked, most especially by some young Nigerians. There seems to be a rise in crime rate because of the lockdown.

**CONCLUSION**

From the foregoing, it is evident that the Coronavirus (COVID 19) is indeed a dangerous development in the world. The Federal Government of Nigeria, through the Federal Ministry of Health has been working hard to ensure that the outbreak in Nigeria is controlled and contained quickly. The multi-sectoral Coronavirus Preparedness Group led by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has immediately activated its national Emergency Operations Centre are working closely with Lagos State (the virus’ epicentre in Nigeria) and other health authorities to respond to this case and implement firm control measures.

Philanthropists, local organisations and international agencies have also been donating human and material resources to fight against the virus.

While the outbreak is still out there, all Nigerians should heed the advice to take care of their health by maintaining hand and respiratory hygiene to protect themselves and others from the ravaging and deadly virus.