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**THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC IN NIGERIA**

The **2019–20 corona virus pandemic** is an ongoing [pandemic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemic) of corona virus (COVID-19) caused by [severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus 2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Severe_acute_respiratory_syndrome_coronavirus_2) (SARS-CoV-2). The outbreak was identified in [Wuhan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wuhan), China, in December 2019, declared to be a [Public Health Emergency of International Concern](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_Health_Emergency_of_International_Concern) on 30 January 2020, and recognized as a pandemic by the [World Health Organization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Health_Organization) on 11 March 2020. As of 15 April 2020, [more than 1.98 million cases](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019%E2%80%9320_coronavirus_pandemic_cases) of COVID-19 have been reported in [210 countries and territories](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019%E2%80%9320_coronavirus_pandemic_by_country_and_territory), resulting in [more than 126,000 deaths](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019%E2%80%9320_coronavirus_pandemic_deaths/WHO_situation_reports). More than 486,000 people have recovered, although there may be a possibility of relapse or reinfection. The [deaths per diagnosed cases](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Case_fatality_rate) varies significantly between countries. On 27 February, Nigeria confirmed its first case in Lagos State, an Italian citizen who works in Nigeria had returned on 25 February from Milan, Italy through the [Murtala Muhammed International Airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murtala_Muhammed_International_Airport%22%20%5Co%20%22Murtala%20Muhammed%20International%20Airport), fell ill on 26 February and was transferred to Lagos State biosecurity facilities for isolation and testing. On 9 March, the second case was confirmed, a Nigerian citizen in [Ewekoro](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ewekoro%22%20%5Co%20%22Ewekoro), [Ogun State](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ogun_State%22%20%5Co%20%22Ogun%20State) who had contact with the Italian citizen.

On 13 March, Nigeria confirmed that the second case no longer had the virus in his system and thus tested negative. On 30th march, Nigeria implemented a sweeping quarantine for three major states that are home to almost 30 million people in a bid to slow the spread of the [new corona virus](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/03/coronavirus-emergency-kit-preparation-symptoms-tips-200314103304717.html) in Africa's most populous country.

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| **Disease** | [COVID-19](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coronavirus_disease_2019) |
| **Virus strain** | [SARS-CoV-2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Severe_acute_respiratory_syndrome_coronavirus_2) |
| **Location** | [Nigeria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria) |
| **First outbreak** | [Milan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milan), [Italy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italy) |
| [**Index case**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Index_case) | [Lagos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lagos) |
| **Arrival date** | 27 February 2020(1 month, 2 weeks and 5 days ago) |
| **Confirmed cases** | 373 |
| **Recovered** | 99 |
| **Deaths** | 11 |



The statistics above shows the outcome of the first two weeks of quarantine which was later extended due to the increasing number of victims affected by the virus on a daily basis. The current situation of the country has not been exactly favorable for the citizens as they are unable to fend for themselves. Forced closure of businesses limited the resources of the citizens and this makes it difficult for people to keep body and soul together. This has resulted in the increase of crimes in the country; for survival, people have resorted to stealing, armed robbery, burglary and other forms of social vices especially in Lagos state where the effects of the virus is mostly concentrated. Some victims of these crimes have lost their lives in the process not to talk of the already limited resources which were taken from them.

Also due to the closure of the borders in and out of the country, the prices of goods have started to increase with a corresponding decrease in the income of the citizens. Citizens are getting frustrated because they are paying more for less. They are using the little amount of money they have with no assurance that they will have more the next day. It was discovered that certain security outfits are taking advantage of the lockdown by exploiting citizens financially and physically. Security outfits were deployed at different checkpoints to ensure that citizens obey the lockdown rules and regulations, some of them collect money from the citizens so they can pass through the checkpoint and those that don’t comply are severely dealt with. This has lead many citizens to their ends. This alone instills fear in the hearts and minds of the citizens.

Academic activities have also been put on hold for the main time with justifiable reasons but students are at home with nothing to do (Although, some institutions conduct their academic activities through the internet) which puts their future in danger as many youths who were fending for themselves may engage in the social vices that was mentioned earlier in order to make ends meet.

All these is having an adverse effect on our already failing economy as the country is spending a lot to manage and control the spread and the minimize the effect of this pandemic. On the 13th of April, the Nigerian government extended the lockdown for another two weeks as the numbers of victims increased with the hope that everything will be sorted out by then. Nigeria is discharging a good number of recovered patients everyday with the help of well trained and competent doctors and sizeable donations from different people and organizations which is a sure sign that siege will soon be over.