

# CORONA VIRUS AND THE EFFECTS

Corona virus disease also known as COVID-19 is an infectious disease that affects the respiratory organs of the body and makes breathing difficult. It is genetically related to the case of SARS-CoV-2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus 2) that occurred in 2003. The corona virus was first discovered in December 2019 at Wuhan, China but was not seen as a global threat till 27 February 2020 in Milan, Italy. The most common symptoms of the disease are fever, tiredness, dry cough, runny nose, sore throat, diarrhoea, and nasal congestion. The period of full exposure to the virus to the point where these symptoms are shown is 1-14 days. People of all ages can be infected, but older people are at the most risk because they may have pre-existing medical conditions. Recovery time for mild cases is 2 weeks and 3-6 weeks for severe cases.

The lockdown first placed on Nigeria was seen by health experts as an overwhelming impact on the country's unprepared and underfunded healthcare system. The extension is expected to add to the hardship of Nigerians living hand-to-mouth.

The lockdown has made it possible for theft and criminal activities to happen. An eye witness Wasiu Kolawole was interrupted with his family when a criminal gang stormed a nearby street to rob residents of their belongings, luckily the members of the street were able to defend themselves from the hoodlums with machetes and clubs. With similar attacks also taking place in Lagos during the lockdown, some residents have now formed vigilante groups to guard themselves.

Due to the mandatory lockdown, provisions and necessary amenities for comfort have been restricted and shortened to only food supply. In fundamental cases where an electrical emergency like fire outbreaks, infrastructural collapse of houses, workshops and offices occur, services cannot be found, properties are destroyed with no means to regain them.

Religious worship such as churches and mosques have been

reduced to an amount of less than 20 persons and this has driven fear into many Christians and Muslims. Public gatherings have been disbanded and people now worship in smaller facilities if provided.

More citizens say they fear hunger and not the virus. Electricity and necessary supply of water are not available in most areas and other rural sites and because of this it is hard to follow the lockdown and restriction of movement policy that was declared. The lockdown has also restricted inter-state movement and families have been separated because they work away from their state of residence.

Before the compulsory lockdown on Nigeria, some families lived together. Now under this lockdown, where provisions are scarce and hard to get to, families will have to manage and even starve. In rural cases where a husband, his wife, children of up to 10, cousins even, uncles and aunts and even grandparents stay under the same roof, living and provision will definitely be hard.

Going out was a way to reduce stress and pain which may have been caused by a member of the family or family members in general, now those victims are forced against their will and preference to stay in those abusive homes and no one knows anything about it. No measure has been taken to check the safety of each member of a household. This could also lead to mental, emotional and physical disorder of such victims.

In addition to the deaths caused by corona virus, Nigerian security forces have killed while enforcing the corona virus restriction. The country's National Human Rights Commission says 18 people have died in 'extra-judicial killings' in eight separate incidents. The Human Rights Commission says the Nigeria Correctional Service was responsible for 8 of the killings, the Nigerian Police force 7 and the Nigerian Army was behind 2, the Ebonyi State Task Force is alleged for 1. Other reports include 33 alleged incidents of torture and inhumane treatment, reports of unlawful arrests, 19 incidents of seizure of property and 13 examples of extortion.

Under this lockdown there are other factors besides the disease that can kill Nigerians.

