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 **CORONAVIRUS** **PANDEMIC**

Coronavirus Disease is a contagious caused by newly discovered coronavirus. These coronaviruses are a family of viruses that causes illnesses such as common cold, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome(SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome(MERS). An outbreak of this coronavirus is causing the whole world concern. In 2019, a new coronavirus was identified as the genesis of the disease outbreak in china. The virus is now known as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2(SARS-COV-2). In March 2020, it was declared as a pandemic by the World Health Organization(WHO). The disease it causes is called Coronavirus Disease 2019(COVID-19). Nigeria recorded her first case of coronavirus on 27th of February, 2020 when an Italian citizen was tested positive in Lagos.

 SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Signs and symptoms of COVID-19 range from tender to severe. It takes 2-14 days for the symptoms to develop after exposure and can include:

* Fever
* Cough
* Shortness of breath
* Others are sore throat, headache, Aches and tiredness etc.

 CAUSES

As at this moment, the cause of the virus is unknown. The COVID-19 virus spreads through body contact with certain bodily fluids, such as droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It can also be caused by touching something an infected person has touched and then touching one’s hand to one’s mouth, nose or eyes.

 PREVENTIVE MEASURES

* The best way to prevent and slow down transmission is to be well informed about the COVID-19 virus, the disease it causes and how it spreads.
* Practice social distancing. Avoid people who are sick and gathering in large groups.
* Cover your mouth when coughing with a tissue, or cough into your elbow or upper sleeve.
* Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

 **EFFECTS OF LOCKDOWN ON NIGERIANS**.

The COVID-19 crisis is a complex problem requiring a multi- prolonged, long-term, systems-based approach instead of discrete tactical moves. The mathematical forecasting models cannot capture the devastating consequences as lockdown will have on the lives of Nigerians. With over two million coronavirus cases and over 150 000 deaths globally, the world continues to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. Nigeria currently has 542 cases and has recorded 19 deaths as of this writing. The COVID-19 has drastically changed our daily lives. With travels stopped and industries slowed, all factories, markets, shops, and places of worship are now closed, most public transport suspended and construction work halted, as Nigeria asked her citizens to stay home and practice social distancing, what does this mean to our lives as Nigerians? Below are some effects of lockdown on Nigerians;

* INCREASING RATES OF HUNGER AND POSSIBLY DEATHS: Lockdown is a wrenching decision for any nation let to talk of a developing country like Nigeria with 9.45 million of the total population living below the poverty line and over 60% of the population in the working sector. The lockdown can result to hunger among Nigerians as they cannot go out to work for money to feed themselves. Some poor citizens who doesn’t have job may lose their lives due unavailability of food.
* DEPRESSION AND BOREDOM: Staying in the same place can lead to boredom. Some people are tired of watching movies, playing video games and repeating what they do every single day. Some Nigerians having COVID-19 victims as relatives. The fear of losing your loved ones as well as the prospect of financial hardship all result into thinking and depression. All these, and many more are effects of restriction of movement on the citizens.
* INCREASE IN CRIME RATES: An idle person is the devil’s workshop. Not just an idle person but also a person determined to survive at all cost. Someone who need to survive by all means can engage in stealing. Some will kill others to survive. It is not that some of these people are poor but since they can’t work to get food, they resulted into stealing, kidnapping and others.
* REDUCTION IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES: Due to restriction of movements, Nigerians are unable to go work and earn their daily income/monthly income. Business trips are cancelled due to the way the COVID-19 virus spreads. Closure of schools, markets, airport, places of worship etc. Inflation i.e increase in prices of goods and services.