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**19/MHS09/006**

 **DENTISTRY**

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

**INTRODUCTION**; Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by the newly discovered coronavirus. It is transmitted through fluids from an infected person from when they sneeze, or carried when they exhale. They are too heavy to hang in the air so they drop to the floor and surfaces quickly. It could be transmitted by inhaling if you are within close proximity with an already infected person or by touching contaminated surfaces and then your face (eye, nose, mouth).

The symptoms of COVID-19 could be;

* Fever
* Tiredness
* Dry cough.

Some people may also experience;

* Aches and pains
* Nasal congestion
* Runny nose
* Sore throat
* Diarrhoea

It takes about 5-6 days for symptoms to show or stretch to about 14 days.

**HISTORY OF CORONA VIRUS**; Coronavirus emerged in Wuhan, China on December 31st 2019. Coronavirus belongs to coronaviridae family in the Nidovirales order. At the end of 2019, Wuhan an emerging business hub of china experienced an outbreak of the coronavirus disease that killed over 1,800 people and infected over 70,000 people within 50 days of the epidemic. As it stands, there is no known cure for the virus however; there are preventive measures to be taken such as the washing of hands, observing social distancing, use of protective masks and the use of sanitizers.

CORONA VIRUS IN NIGERIA; The first case of COVID-29 was recorded in Nigeria on the 27th of February 2020 in Lagos. The case was about 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 19th of April 2020, 86 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 were recorded in Nigeria. Till today the 20th of April 2020, there have been 627 cases of confirmed recording 170 cases discharged and mortality of 21 in Nigeria.The 86 new cases are reported from seven states;

* Lagos-70, Abuja-7, Akwa-Ibom- 3, Katsina- 3 ,Borno- 1,Bauchi- 1, Jigawa- 1

**Effects of 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-sectorial 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.