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**CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND ITS EFFECT ON NIGERIANS**

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. The history of human coronaviruses began in 1965 when Tyrrell and Bynoe found that they could passage a virus named B814. In December 2019, a cluster of pneumonia cases from an unknown virus surfaced in Wuhan, china. Based on initial laboratory findings, the disease coronavirus was described as an infectious disease that is caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2. The virus has spread to about 196 countries and territories in every continent and one international conveyance across the globe.

Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Older people, and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness. The best way to prevent and slow down transmission is be well informed about the COVID-19 virus, the disease it causes and how it spreads. Protect yourself and others from infection by washing your hands or using an alcohol based rub frequently and not touching your face.

The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, so it’s important that you also practice respiratory etiquette. You should cough into a flexed elbow. There are no specific vaccines or treatment for COVID-19. However, there are many ongoing clinical trials evaluating potential treatment. To prevent the spread, you should clean your hands often using soap and water or an alcohol sanitizer, maintain a safe distance from anyone who is coughing or sneezing, don’t touch your eyes, nose and mouth, stay home if you feel unwell, stay at home and seek medical attention if you have a fever, cough or difficulty in breathing.

The extension of the lockdown is expected to add to the hardship of millions of Nigerians living hand-to-mouth, often on less than five hundred naira a day. The government has pledge a series of support measures to ease the financial pain for the most vulnerable, but there have been complaints that not enough is being done for those facing hunger which is true. Majority of the resources allocated for the welfare of Nigerians were shared among themselves. The government claimed to have shared some amount of money and food resources to various environments across the country but less than fifty percent was what was allocated.

With the recent outbreak of this virus, many industries and companies in Nigeria will incur major losses in their businesses because of the complete lockdown. The restriction of movement will affect those that feeds from hand-to-mouth the most because they will not be able to do their daily business. Social distancing and self- isolation presuppose that people have enough space. In Lagos where we have over 100 slim areas, about 50 people can be found sharing a 10-room building with only two toilets and a bathroom being shared by all with no pipe-borne or treated water readily available. There is no way there would be efficient social distancing in that case.