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**A REPORT ON THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIA**

The 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), officially named as COVID-19 pandemic by the WHO originated from the sprawling capital of Central China’s Hubei province popularly known as “Wuhan” in December 2019. Although, presently the virus has spread to more than 180 countries including China. Confirmed novel coronavirus cases increased ten-fold in less than a month, from 100,000 in the first week of March to more than one million on the second day of April, while more than 52,000 deaths have been reported across the world. Europe has become the new epicentre of coronavirus making more than 90% of the global COVID-19 cases are currently outside China.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the COVID-19 outbreak as a global pandemic, on 11 March. The US also declared the outbreak as a public health emergency on 1 February and temporarily banned travel from European nations to the US.

[Researchers in China](https://www.pharmaceutical-technology.com/news/china-tests-30-drug-candidates/) and pharmaceutical companies including [AbbVie](https://www.pharmaceutical-technology.com/news/coronavirus-abbvie-sirnaomics/), Inovio, and Gilead Sciences are working on developing coronavirus vaccines and drugs.

The virus is primarily [spread](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transmission_(medicine)) between people during close contact, often via [small droplets](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Respiratory_droplet) produced by coughing, sneezing, or talking. While these droplets are produced when breathing out, they usually fall to the ground or onto surfaces rather than [remain in the air over long distances](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Airborne_disease). People may also become infected by touching a contaminated surface and then touching their eyes, nose, or mouth. The virus can survive on surfaces for up to 72 hours. It is most contagious during the first three days after the onset of symptoms, although spread may be possible before symptoms appear and in later stages of the disease. Common symptoms include fever, cough and [shortness of breath](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shortness_of_breath). Complications may include [pneumonia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pneumonia) and [acute respiratory distress syndrome](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acute_respiratory_distress_syndrome). The [time from exposure to onset of symptoms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Incubation_period) is typically around five days, but may range from two to fourteen days. There is [no known vaccine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19_vaccine) or [specific](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19_drug_development) [antiviral treatment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antiviral_drug). Primary treatment is [symptomatic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symptomatic_treatment) and [supportive therapy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supportive_therapy).

Recommended [preventive measures](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preventive_healthcare) include [hand washing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hand_washing), covering one's mouth when coughing, [maintaining distance from other people](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_distancing), and monitoring and [self-isolation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Self-isolation) for people who suspect they are infected. Authorities worldwide [have responded](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_responses_to_the_2019%E2%80%9320_coronavirus_pandemic) by implementing [travel restrictions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Travel_restrictions_related_to_the_2019%E2%80%9320_coronavirus_pandemic), [quarantines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quarantine), [curfews and stay-at-home orders](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Curfews_and_lockdowns_related_to_the_2019%E2%80%9320_coronavirus_pandemic), [workplace hazard controls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Workplace_hazard_controls_for_COVID-19), and [facility closures](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_public_venues_and_institutions_closed_during_the_2019%E2%80%9320_coronavirus_pandemic). Many places have also worked to increase [testing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19_testing) capacity and [trace contacts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contact_tracing) of infected persons.

**CORONAVIRUS IN NIGERIA**

On 28 January 2020, the [Federal government of Nigeria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_government_of_Nigeria) assured citizens of the country of its readiness to strengthen surveillance at [five international airports](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_airports_in_Nigeria) in the country to prevent the spread of coronavirus. The government announced the airports as [Enugu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enugu_State), [Lagos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lagos_State), [Rivers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rivers_State), [Kano](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kano_State) and the [FCT](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Capital_Territory,_Nigeria). The [Nigeria Centre for Disease Control](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria_Centre_for_Disease_Control) (NCDC) also announced same day that they had already set up coronavirus group and was ready to activate its incident system if any case emerged in Nigeria.

On 31 January 2020, following the [developments of COVID-19 pandemic in mainland China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019%E2%80%9320_coronavirus_pandemic_in_mainland_China) and other countries worldwide, the federal government of Nigeria set up a Coronavirus Preparedness Group to mitigate the impact of the virus if it eventually spreads to the country. On the same day, the [World Health Organization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Health_Organization) listed Nigeria among other 13 African countries identified as high-risk for the spread of the virus.

On 27 February, Nigeria confirmed its first case, an Italian citizen who works in Nigeria had returned on 25 February from Milan, Italy through the [Murtala Muhammed International Airport](https://www.bing.com/search?q=Murtala%20Muhammed%20International%20Airport%20wikipedia&form=WIKIRE), fell ill on 26 February and was transferred to Lagos State Biosecurity Facilities for isolation and testing.

Corona virus cases in Nigeria has increasing steadily since the first case was recorded till now with presently over 500 recorded cases, more than a 100 recoveries and over 15 deaths

**EFFECTS OF LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT**

A **l**ockdown is an emergency protocol that usually prevents people or information from leaving an area. The protocol can usually only be initiated by someone in a position of [authority](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Authority).

The effects of the lockdown in Nigeria and the world at large are not all negative, some positive effects can still be drawn out of the worldwide issue. The effects of restriction of movements on Nigerians are indicated below;

* The pandemic has led to [severe socioeconomic disruption](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socio-economic_impact_of_the_2019%E2%80%9320_coronavirus_pandemic) such as: [the postponement or cancellation of sporting, religious, political and cultural events](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_events_affected_by_the_2019%E2%80%9320_coronavirus_pandemic), and [widespread shortages of supplies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shortages_related_to_the_2019%E2%80%9320_coronavirus_pandemic) exacerbated by [panic buying](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panic_buying).
* The pandemic has led to one of the largest [global recessions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coronavirus_recession) in history, with more than a third of the global population being in [lockdown](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lockdown).
* [Schools, universities and colleges have closed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impact_of_the_2019%E2%80%9320_coronavirus_pandemic_on_education) either on a nationwide or local basis in 197 countries including Nigeria, affecting approximately 99.9 per cent of the world's student population.
* [Misinformation about the virus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Misinformation_related_to_the_2019%E2%80%9320_coronavirus_pandemic) has spread online, and there have been [incidents of xenophobia and discrimination](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_incidents_of_xenophobia_and_racism_related_to_the_2019%E2%80%9320_coronavirus_pandemic) against [Nigerians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_people) and against those perceived as being infected, or as being from areas with high infection rates.
* Due to reduced automotive travel and closure of polluting industries, there [has been a decrease](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impact_of_the_2019%E2%80%9320_coronavirus_pandemic_on_the_environment) in air pollution and [carbon emissions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carbon_emissions).
* Many countries have reported an increase in [domestic violence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domestic_violence) and [intimate partner violence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intimate_partner_violence) attributed to lockdowns amid the 2019–20 coronavirus pandemic. Financial insecurity, stress, and uncertainty have led to increased aggression at home, with abusers able to control large amounts of their victims' daily life. United Nations Secretary-General [António Guterres](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ant%C3%B3nio_Guterres) has called for a domestic violence "ceasefire".
* It allows families to strengthen their bond by spending quality time together.
* The leaders of the world scampered in unity on how to combat this disease and have never been cooperative in sharing best practices on how to prevent o stop the spread of this virus.