**THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

**TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

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**Abstract**

The Coronavirus disease 19 (COVID-19) is a highly transmittable and pathogenic viral infection caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome Coronavirus 2 which emerged in Wuhan, China and spread around the world. the government in Wuhan on the 31st of December 2019 (hence the name COVID-19) confirmed that health authorities were treating dozens of cases. The first death in China was recorded on the 11th of January 2020. It has spread to at least 177 countries.

**Introduction**

According to the world health organization (WHO), COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered Coronavirus. In this report, we shall be discussing the following:

* General overview of the virus: The symptoms, causes, susceptible, treatment and prevention of the virus
* The statistics of the virus in Nigeria and in the world as a whole
* The effects of the lockdown and restriction of movement in Nigeria.

This report is aimed at informing Nigerians and the world at large of the above information and give vivid explanation of the current situation in the world.

***General Overview Of The Coronavirus***

Coronavirus is a newly discovered virus in the world and was introduced to humans first on the 31st of December 2019. According to the WHO, most of the people infected with this 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, and so on are more likely to develop serious illness.

Further studies have shown that The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, so it is important to practice respiratory etiquette like coughing into a flexed elbow, etc.

Some of the **symptoms** of the virus include:

* Fever
* Tiredness
* Dry cough
* Aches and pains
* Nasal congestion
* Runny nose
* Sore throat
* Diarrhea

On average, it takes 5 to 6 days from when someone is infected with the virus for symptoms to show, however, it can take up to 14 days. People with mild symptoms who are otherwise healthy should self-isolate. Seek medical attention if you have a fever, a cough, and difficulty in breathing. Call ahead.

To **prevent** the spread of the virus:

* Clean your hand often. Use soap and water, or an alcohol based hand rub (sanitizer preferably)
* Maintain a safe distance from anyone who is coughing or sneezing
* Don’t touch your eyes, nose or mouth
* Cover your nose and mouth with your bent elbow or a tissue when you cough or sneeze
* Stay home if you feel unwell
* If you have a fever, a cough and difficulty in breathing, seek medical attention. Call in advance
* Follow the directions of your local health authority

Avoid unneeded visits to medical facilities to allow health care systems to operate more effectively, therefore protecting you and others.

**Treatment**

To date, there are no specific vaccines or medicine for COVID-19, but the above ways can surely help to combat the spread of the virus.

***Statistics Of The Spread Of The Virus In The World And In Nigeria.***

In the world as a whole, there are currently 2 470 410 confirmed cases. 645 335 of them have recovered and a total of 169 794 deaths recorded with the us recording the highest number of confirmed cases and deaths in the world. Below is the statistics of the Coronavirus spread in the top 5 countries in the world

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Top countries | Confirmed cases | Recovered | Deaths recorded |
| United states of America | 795 898 | 72 175 | 42 560 |
| Spain | 200 210 | 80 587 | 20 852 |
| Italy | 181 228 | 48 877 | 24 114 |
| Germany | 147 065 | 84 717 | 4 862 |
| United kingdom | 124 743 | No statistics shown | 16 509 |

Nigeria has not been exempted from the wrath of this virus with Lagos having the highest number of cases and deaths. Below is the current statistics in Nigeria according to NCDC

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Confirmed cases | Recovered | Death |
| 665 | 188 | 22 |

I presumed that the number of cases in the country would not reach 1000. But from the above statistics, I guess I’ve been proven wrong. It was announced that Nigeria is having a very sharp increase in the number of cases with the highest amount of cases recorded in a day to be 86 on the 20th of April 2020.

***Effects Of The Lockdown And Restriction Of Movement Of Nigerians.***

In order to promote social distancing, which is one of the preventive measures for Coronavirus, the federal government in Nigeria issued a lockdown in the country. An initial 14-day lockdown was given from march 30th. An extra 14 days has been added by the government on the 13th of April 2020 to last till midnight on the 27th of April. This lockdown is effective in Lagos, Abuja and Ogun states while restrictions have been placed indefinitely in some states.

Because of the lockdown, the country has been affected in 5 major ways. I shall take them one by one and discuss.

* **Economic effect:** of course, the country is made up of the rich and the poor. This lockdown is not in favor of the poor most especially because their only means of survival has been shut down. Some say that this lockdown would lead to recession in the country later on, but who knows. Some companies have even resorted to sacking some of their staffs so as to have less people to provide salaries for. It was even said in the news that the price of crude oil has been greatly lowered because of importation problems during these trying times. It is not easy at all for the government at all and for the country as a whole.
* **Effect on education:** schools were forcefully shut down because of this pandemic. Private schools especially have resorted to online classes for their students in order to meet up with the academic calendar. This online classes cost a lot of money because a lot of money is being spent on data and Wi-Fi. I even heard there is a deliberation on if WAEC examinations should be cancelled. If care is not taken, there would be a regression in the education sector in the country.
* **Health effects:** some of the Coronavirus victims have been found in some hospitals, thus those hospitals have been shut down automatically. This has automatically reduced the amount of health centers running in the country. It is also going to be difficult for people with other health issues to get adequate health care although electronic health facilities have been provided.
* **Effect on religion:** the restriction and lockdown has prevented people from coming out in masses to go to church. Thus, online church services and forms of religion worships are done in the homes and in some cases, the families have their own mini churches together.

**In conclusion,**

Everything that has an advantage definitely has a disadvantage. The Coronavirus pandemic has both the positive effects and negative ones which have been discussed above. Let us ensure to take all precautionary measures so that we can fight this Coronavirus together and things be restored to normal.

**Recommendations:**

* Health is wealth. It is only a healthy man that can go out to look for food to eat. So let us all stay indoors and try to prevent the spread of the virus
* Let us also endeavor to obey the instructions of the government.
* Lastly, wear your face masks and wash your hands regularly with soap and water to help reduce the spread of the virus.

Respectively submitted,

Ijeoma Opara.