

NAME: AGHATISE OSAYAMEN STEPHANIE

DEPARTMENT: MEDICINE AND SURGERY

COLLEGE: MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

MATRIC NUMBER: 19/MHS 01/053

LEVEL: 100

COURSE CODE: GST 122

ASSIGNMENT: write a report of not more than 2 pages, on the Corona virus pandemic and the effects of the lockdown and restriction of movement on Nigerians.

On December 31, 2019, the World Health Organisation's (WHO) China office heard the first reports of a previously-unknown virus behind a number of pneumonia cases in Wuhan, a city in Eastern China with a population of over 11 million. What started as an epidemic mainly limited to China has now become a truly global pandemic. There have now been over 2,406,745 confirmed cases and 165,273 deaths, according to the John Hopkins University Covid-19 dashboard, which collates information from national and international health authorities. The disease has been detected in more than 200 countries and territories, with Italy, the US and Spain experiencing the most widespread outbreaks outside of China. In the UK, there have been 120,067 confirmed cases and 16,060 hospital deaths as of April 18.

The disease appears to have originated from a Wuhan seafood market where wild animals, including marmots, birds, rabbits, bats and snakes, are traded illegally. Coronaviruses are known to jump from animals to humans, so it's thought that the first people infected with the disease – a group primarily made up of stallholders from the seafood market – contracted it from contact with animals.

Coronaviruses are a large group of viruses that are known to infect both humans and animals, and in humans cause respiratory illness that range from common colds to much more serious infections. The most well-known case of a coronavirus epidemic was Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (Sars). Covid-19 shares many of its symptoms with the flu or common cold, although there are certain symptoms common to flu and colds that are not usually seen in Covid-19. People with confirmed cases of Covid-19 rarely suffer from a runny nose, for instance. The most common Covid-19 symptoms are a fever and a dry cough. Other Covid-19 symptoms are less common. Just under 40 per cent of people with the disease experience fatigue, while a third of people cough up sputum – a thick mucus from within the lungs. Other rarer symptoms include shortness of breath, muscle pain, sore throats, headaches or chills, loss of smell or taste.

According to the WHO, symptoms tend to appear between five and six days after infection.

Due to the Corona virus in Nigeria, President Mohammed Buhari placed a lockdown on Nigerians that has been going on for more than 2 weeks now with current confirmed cases of infected at 665, recovered 188 and deaths 22, with Lagos being the highest number of infected 376, recovered 97 and deaths 13. The lockdown does not apply to those providing essential services, such as food distributors and retailers, including market stalls selling food and groceries, which the government has said can operate for four hours every 48 hours. The lockdown, however, prevents many Nigerians working in informal sectors from traveling to work or conducting their business. Local food vendors and traders have expressed fears over their ability to feed their families during the lockdown, with their daily earnings their only source of sustenance. An increase in food prices as a result of the lockdown also means that many cannot stock up on necessities. "The vast majority of people outside of the formal system are hit devastatingly by the lockdown," said Felix Morka, executive director of the Social Economic Rights Action Center, a Lagos-based nongovernmental organization. "Any disruption to their daily livelihood has a huge and significant impact on their ability to meet their most basic needs." Videos have circulated on social media showing armed robberies, fires and small riots in some Lagos neighbourhoods.

The Lagos state government has been distributing food packages to 200,000 of the state's most vulnerable households, and plans to double the aid. Buhari did not address the unrest specifically, other than saying he urged the security forces to "maintain utmost vigilance", but he acknowledged the difficulties many people would face by sticking to the rules. "We made this very difficult decision knowing fully well it will severely disrupt your livelihoods and bring undue hardship to you, your loved ones and your communities," he said. "However, such sacrifices are needed to limit the spread of COVID-19 in our country." He said the federal government, which has also been distributing cash and food, would add 1 million households to the programme, which is currently targeting 2.6 million. He also said the government would develop a comprehensive policy to bring its economy through the crisis, and set up a task force to minimise the impact of lockdowns on farmers and the agricultural sector.