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AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

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## THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS

The Corona virus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered corona virus.

The virus that causes COVID-19 is mainly transmitted through droplets generated when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or exhales. These droplets are too heavy to hang in the air, and quickly fall on floors or surfaces. You can be infected by breathing in the virus if you are within close proximity of someone who has COVID-19, or by touching a contaminated surface and then your eyes, nose or mouth.

Most people who fall sick with COVID-19 will experience mild to moderate symptoms and recover without special treatment.

Corona virus cases as been increasing drastically in the past few months since February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020. It has taken more than a hundred thousands of lives in other countries where some Nigerians too visited, and this make covid19 spread like wild fire, especially from foreign returnees and international travelers who are Nigerians. Government has made an effort through the Nigerian center for disease control (NCDC) to curb the spread of the virus. They create awareness on precautionary measures for people to imbibe; they provide medical facilities to test people. The president declared that some vulnerable states should be locked down. Some states observe them like Osun, Lagos, Ekiti and so on and so forth

As at 11:10 p.m 20<sup>th</sup> April 21, 2020, there are currently 665 confirmed cases of COVID-19 recorded in Nigeria, with 188 discharged patients and 6 deaths. The restrictions on movements in all states enter its fourth week and are highly expected to be extended due to the high rate of new cases. Efforts are being made to support contact tracing, testing and reduce further transmission.

A lot of negative implications on the virus has come forward such as

A decline in the country's economy, more filings for unemployment and more job losses, because of people's inability to access funds and government aids are barely enough to sustain the ever-growing population. A lot more people are dying due to hunger more than the corona virus has killed.

In order to protect yourself and others around you, knowing the facts and taking appropriate precautions help a lot. Following the advice provided by public health agencies such as to

- Clean your hands often. Use soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand rub.
- 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 breathing, seek medical attention. Call in advance.
- Follow the directions of your local health authority.
- Avoiding unneeded visits to medical facilities allows healthcare systems to operate more effectively, therefore protecting you and others.

The government, doctors, virologists and health experts worldwide are doing their best to prevent the further spread of this deadly virus and to cure it as a whole while keeping the countries on partial or total lockdown.