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Medicine and surgery

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***Assignment Question: Write a report, of not more than two pages, on the Corona virus pandemic and the effect of the lockdown and restriction of movement on Nigerians***

The COVID-19 corona virus pandemic has led to mass scientific conference cancellations, travel restrictions, social distancing, and other unprecedented prevention measures. How did we get to this point?

A novel corona virus outbreak was first documented in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China on 31st December, 2019. Officials confirmed a case of the novel corona virus in **Thailand in 13th January, 2020**. The outbreak was declared a ***Public Health Emergency of International Concern* on 30th January, 2020**. On 11th February, 2020, WHO announced a name for the new corona virus disease; **COVID -19.**

On **11th March, 2020** the director general of WHO announced the outbreak of the disease as a pandemic. It was the first time a corona virus was declared as such.

As of this writing, it has now been confirmed on six continents and in more than 180 Countries with the US and the European nations of Spain, Italy and France the worst hit. As [scientists and researchers race toward a vaccine](https://www.cnet.com/news/coronavirus-treatments-hydroxychloroquine-vaccines-and-drugs-for-covid-19/#ftag=CAD-00-10aag7d), governments are attempting to [mitigate the economic damage with stimulus checks](https://www.cnet.com/news/how-to-track-your-coronavirus-stimulus-check-now-what-to-do-to-get-your-status/#ftag=CAD-00-10aag7d) and tax cuts and contain further spread of the disease with social distancing measures and lockdown.

Researchers linked the pathogen to a family of viruses known as *corona viruses* in January. That family contains viruses responsible for previous outbreaks of the respiratory diseases SARS and MERS, as well as some cases of the common cold.

**What are corona viruses?**

Corona viruses are a large family of zoonotic viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to severe respiratory diseases. Zoonotic means these viruses are able to be transmitted from animals to humans. There are several corona viruses known to be circulating in different animal populations that have not yet infected humans. COVID-19 is the most recent to make the jump to human infection.

Common signs of COVID-19 infection are similar to the common cold and include respiratory symptoms such as dry cough, fever, shortness of breath, and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure, and death. The COVID-19 infection is spread from one person to others via droplets produced from the respiratory system of infected people, often during coughing or sneezing. According to current data, time from exposure to onset of symptoms is usually between two and 14 days, with an average of five days.

The Federal Ministry of Health, on the **27th of February, 2020** confirmed a corona virus disease (COVID-19) case in Lagos State, Nigeria. The case, which was confirmed, was the first case to be reported in Nigeria since the beginning of the outbreak in China in January 2020. The case was an Italian citizen who works in Nigeria and returned from Milan, Italy to Lagos, Nigeria on the 25th of February 2020. He was confirmed by Lagos University Teaching Hospital. The victim was found to have recovered and tested negative after been quarantined and intensively cared for on 19th of March, 2020.

The Federal Ministry of Education closed all tertiary, secondary and primary schools nationwide over the outbreak of corona virus in the country on 19th March 2020 and order all school premises to be vacated with 5 days. N**CDC (NIGERIAN CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL)** is the government agency with the mandate to coordinate the surveillance, detection, and response to infectious disease control outbreak. NCDC has various centers in different states in Nigeria.

Major States in the country; Lagos, Abuja and Ogun States were placed on 14 days total lockdown to curb the spread of the virus. While Others States created a curfew taking Oyo State as an example, movements were strictly within 5am to 7pm after which offenders would be mercilessly beaten. **Nigeria currently has 627 reported cases, 170 discharged and 21 deaths.** Nigeria's President chief of staff, Abba Kyari was confirmed dead at age 81 on 17th April, 2020 as he was infected with the virus at an official meeting in Germany.

**Some positive effects of lockdown:** Apart from reducing the spread of the deadly strain of corona virus COVID–19, With fewer cars on the road and planes in the sky, the environmental benefits of COVID-19 lockdowns are showing, It allows family to bond together and do things together thereby creating an avenue for parents or guardians to correct their Ward’s behaviors, individuals get to spend more time with God, serves as an opportunity to relax to those who never had time for themselves before the lockdown, and many more advantages that can’t be mentioned.

Despite these benefits, lockdown proves to be a disadvantage as Millions of Nigerians are unable to survive without some form of daily trade and don’t have the luxury of bank savings, credit cards and online commerce to be able to stay indoors or “social distance” for extended periods. Nigeria’s Government will likely face pushback from citizens because the longer lockdowns rob citizens of their livelihoods. For example,

Babatunde saka, a barber in Ibadan, Nigeria’s third largest city, still attends to customers despite the risk of corona virus as the alternative, he says, is watching his family go to bed on empty stomachs. “I have no choice; I have to put food on the table.”

Other negative effects of lockdown in Nigeria includes: vices which includes prostitution, armed robbery and so on, It has a poor effect on the economy, It leads to the increase in the prices of limited goods in the market making the a less privileged and more vulnerable, survival of the fittest and elimination of the unfit especially financially, since students are unable to go to school, the school's academic calendar is extended.+

Conclusion: Corona virus is real and deadly, we should develop good hygiene habits, avoid crowded places and don’t waste foods, help the poor, develop a personal relationship with God; Taking these measures will assist the Nigerian government in eradicating the virus in Nigeria. **STAY SAFE.**

**References**

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