



Coronavirus Pandemic and The Effects of Lockdown

And Restrictions on Movements:

COVID-19, a severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) is a novel virus that caused the first major pandemic of the new millennium. The sudden outbreak of coronavirus from China to about 310 countries around the world has shocked the international community especially health policy makers all over and the shock was wider and stronger than any other epidemic that had happened in previous years.

An unprecedented outbreak of pneumonia of unknown aetiology in Wuhan city, China emerged in late December 2019. A novel coronavirus was subsequently identified as the causative pathogen, provisionally named 2019 Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV). The ten genome sequences of 2019-nCoV obtained from nine patients were extremely similar, exhibiting more than 98% sequence identity. Notably, 2019-nCoV was closely related with 8% identity to two bat derived severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) like corona virus. As of January 26, 2020, more than 2000 cases of 2019-nCoV infection have been confirmed, most of which involved people living in or visiting Wuhan and human-to-human transmission.

Travel COVID-19 by the World Health Organization (WHO) from February 11th 2020 to avoid the use of geographical areas to name the virus as it was once called the Wuhan virus which progressed to the China, South East Asia and Middle East. Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) is caused by a beta coronavirus named 229E-CoV-2 that affects the lower respiratory tract and manifest as pneumonia in humans. People with COVID-19 have a wide range of symptoms ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Like fever, cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, pneumonia etc. The main symptoms include high temperature, a near continuous cough lasting more than one hour or 3. Most people will

experience mild to moderate respiratory illness based on currently available information and clinical expertise, older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, its capacity for human-to-human transmission, the lack of awareness in hospital infection control and international air travel facilitated the rapid global spread of this virus. It is affecting 210 countries and territories around the world. On a daily basis, we encounter an increasing number of reported cases. Since 31st December, 2019 and as of 20th April 2020, 246,942 cases of COVID-19 have been reported including 170,000 deaths. Before March, Nigeria had reported 303 cases which was doubled in the past seven days with a total of 627 cases, 21 deaths and 170 discharged.

At present, no effective antiviral treatment or vaccine is available for COVID-19. The WHO and USA centers recommended avoiding travels, contact with individuals who are symptomatic, basic hand hygiene like hand washing and the use of PPE such as face masks especially for asymptomatic people.

Since it was detected in Wuhan, China, the coronavirus has infected over 2.4 million people across the world and has interrupted social and economic activities. The Federal Government's effort to control the rate of the spread of the disease by initiating a nation-wide lockdown and restriction of movement has brought untold hardship on its citizens. 18 people in Nigeria have been killed by security forces during the enforcement of measures, people that do not have a steady source of income are trying to survive on the little they have. Some have died of starvation while others are getting there. Businesses and factories have been shut down so people are unemployed and cannot be paid. Others that do not have what can sustain them are starting to steal to survive.

The government should find ways to assist its citizens in these hard times because it is not only the coronavirus that kills