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**ASIGNMENT TITLE: FORMS OF WRITING**

**Question**

**Write a report, of not more than two pages, on the Corona virus pandemic and the effects of the lockdown and restrictions of movement on Nigerians.**

The name coronavirus comes from the Latin word *corona*, meaning crown or halo. Under an electron microscope, the virus looks like it is surrounded by a solar corona. Corona virus pandemic is a deadly disease that is ravaging the whole world. The nickname for this virus is COVID-19 virus. 'CO' stands for corona; 'VI' stands for virus; 'D' for disease; '19' for 2019- the year it was first identified.

This virus is said to have emanated from China (Wuhan) and is now spreading rapidly around the globe. Currently, the United States of America has the highest number of corona virus reported cases in the world, with about 800,000 reported cases, and about 43,000 deaths as at April 21, 2020. The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, so it's important to practice respiratory etiquette (for example, coughing into a flexed elbow). Most people infected with the COVID-19 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, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness.

### **Prevention of COVID-19**

To prevent the spread of COVID-19

1. Clean your hands often. Use soap and water, or an alcohol-based sanitizer.
2. Maintain a safe distance (at least 1 meter (3 feet) distance) from anyone who is coughing or sneezing.
3. Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth with dirty hands.
4. Cover your nose and mouth with your bent elbow or a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
5. Stay home if you feel unwell.
6. If you have a fever, a cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention. Call in advance.
7. Follow the directions of your local health authority.
8. Avoiding unneeded visits to medical facilities allows healthcare systems to operate more effectively, therefore protecting you and others.
9. Anyone who has recently visited any area or country where the spread of COVID-19 is prevalent should observe quarantine for at least fourteen days.

At present, there are no specific vaccines or treatments for COVID-19 however, there are many ongoing clinical trials evaluating potential treatments. Israel is said to have developed a vaccine which is working to cure corona virus, but this hasn't yet been confirmed as the vaccine for the corona virus pandemic.

In Nigeria, a Presidential Task Force (PTF) has been set up and has been working with the Centre for Disease Control and other related agencies to monitor the spread and control of the pandemic in the country.

On 31 January 2020, following the developments of COVID-19 pandemic in mainland China and other countries worldwide, the Federal government of Nigeria set up a Corona virus Preparedness Group to mitigate the impact of the virus if it eventually spreads to the country. On the same day, the World Health Organization listed Nigeria among other 13 African countries identified as high-risk for the spread of the virus. The first confirmed case of the pandemic in Nigerian was announced on 27 February 2020, when an Italian citizen in Lagos tested positive for the virus, caused by SARS-CoV-2. On 9 March 2020, a second case of the virus was reported in Ewekoro, Ogun State, and a Nigerian citizen who had contact with the Italian citizen. Since then the pandemic has been spreading like a wild fire within the country.

In Nigeria twenty one states have reported cases of corona virus, including FCT (Abuja) making the number twenty two. Lagos so far has the highest number of corona virus reported cases in Nigeria. On the 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2020, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari ordered a 14 days lockdown in Lagos state, Ogun state, and the FCT in order to curtail the rapid spread of the virus in the country. Some other states of the Federation like Rivers, Cross River, Kaduna, and Delta have issued similar restrictions in their states.

The lockdown restricted the movements of people in Nigeria; people are not allowed to roam the streets aimlessly. Shops are to remain closed and only the providers of essential goods and commodities e.g. food, fuel etc. are to remain open. The Nigerian Police has been empowered to enforce the restrictions, ensuring that only those with important or urgent business or those delivering essential goods are allowed to ply the roads. The prices of goods and commodities are now on the increase due to this state of lockdown. There is an increase in the rate of criminal activities because people, possibly due to hunger, have taken desperate means like armed robbery in order to acquire some money to buy food and feed their families. Shops which are found open for no reason are close down and sometimes destroyed. The Nigerian government has started to provide some palliatives to alleviate the discomfort of the people in this pandemic, however, the palliatives have not been distributed evenly throughout the country, and are not in sufficient quantity.

Different individuals and organizations have made contributions towards the fight against the disease, including actors and actresses who via social media, have raised awareness about this pandemic through various campaigns. Most people in Nigeria are becoming very health cautious and have started wearing face masks when going out. This is seen in the National Assembly as most legislators, when speaking during a live conference in the National Assembly wear face masks and stay at a distance from each other. Alcohol based sanitizers are also being purchased in the country. All social gatherings in the country have been temporarily shut down due to this pandemic: schools, churches, mosques, hotels etc. Most people now work from home and send school work and projects via e-mail. Church services are now held at home and Islamic prayers too. People are now afraid of going to the hospital for mild illnesses for fear that they might come in contact with corona virus patients. People are not allowed to throw parties with many people in attendance. Advertisements educating people on corona virus, its dangers and preventions have become regular broadcasts by the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA).

Despite the lockdown some people still go about their daily activities and don't observe the social distance rule, neither do they abide by the health rules. Due to this, corona virus spread in Nigeria has continued to be on the increase and as such President Muhammadu Buhari extended the lockdown in Lagos state, Ogun state, and the FCT by another fourteen days on 13 April 2020. People like bus drivers still have made no provisions for their passengers to abide by the social distance rule, though they go about their activities normally they have difficulty finding passengers as before. This is due to the fact that many Nigerians now avoid patronizing public transport services for fear of contracting the virus as a result of their contact with many people. Families of the corona virus diseased are not allowed to bury their loved ones because they too can contract the deadly disease.

Some mobile networks like MTN provided links for their customers so as to aid their comfort during the period of this lockdown. Some restaurants made cooked food for the less privileged so as to aid their comfort in this lockdown.