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

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. It was first recorded in humans in 2019 hence the name COVID-19.

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.

The best way to prevent and slow down transmission is be well informed about the COVID-19 virus, the disease it causes and how it spreads. Protect yourself and others from infection by washing your hands or using an alcohol based rub or hand-sanitizer frequently and not touching your face.

The COVID-19 virus spreads through fluids in the body primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, so it’s important that you also practice respiratory etiquette (for example, by coughing into a flexed elbow).

At this time, there are no specific vaccines or treatments for COVID-19. However, there are many ongoing clinical trials evaluating potential treatments.

**Effects of isolation in Nigeria**

**Economic hardship**

Nigeria, with 200 million people, is Africa's most populous nation. Some 20 million reside in the megacity of Lagos. Health experts have raised alarms over the impact of a major coronavirus outbreak, warning that the country's unprepared and underfunded healthcare system could quickly become overwhelmed.

The extension of the lockdown is expected to add to the hardship of millions of Nigerians living hand-to-mouth, often on less than one dollar a day. "The vast majority of Nigerians depend on daily wages, they have to go out to get money and buy food to put it on the table for their families," Al Jazeera's Ahmed Idris, reporting from the capital, Abuja, said. "For the next two weeks, they are going to stay at home with no work and no chance of getting money."

**Increase in generator pollution**

With Nigeria’s struggling national grid lacking in capacity to power the entire country, generators—especially small, low cost models with tank capacities of just four liters—have become an ubiquitous alternative for power despite a [ban on mass importation](https://qz.com/africa/553584/nigerians-can-no-longer-import-one-of-their-prized-possessions-low-cost-power-generators/).