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**A Report on the Coronavirus Pandemic and its Effects on Nigerians**

**Introduction**

The new pandemic, COVID-19, came up at a time the world was least expecting it and took most of the world by surprise. Many instructions, rules, regulations, and practices have been put in place to help minimize the spread and effects of the virus including self-isolation and social distancing. People worldwide are still trying to adapt to the idea of prolonged indoor stays. This has affected the masses in more ways than one including their restricted movement. Therefore, this report is aimed at providing a broader knowledge on the Coronavirus pandemic as a subject.

**What is a Coronavirus?**

The coronavirus family causes illnesses ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), according to the WHO. They circulate in animals and some can be transmitted between animals and humans. Some coronaviruses are circulating in animals that do not infect humans. The new coronavirus, the seventh known to affect humans, has been named COVID-19.

**What are the symptoms?**

Common signs of infection include fever, coughing and breathing difficulties. In severe cases, it can cause pneumonia, multiple organ failure, and death. The incubation period of COVID-19 is thought to be between one and fourteen days. It is contagious before the symptoms appear, which is why so many people get infected. Infected patients can also be asymptomatic, meaning they do not display any symptoms despite having the virus in their systems.

**Preventive Measures**

The WHO declared the virus a pandemic on the 11th of March,2020 and said it was “deeply concerned by the alarming levels of spread and severity” of the outbreak. One of the most important preventive measures is basic hygiene such as regularly washing hands with soap and water, and sneezing or coughing into the elbow.

Furthermore, it is advised to maintain “social distancing” – keeping at least 1.8 metres between yourself and others – particularly if they are coughing and sneezing, and avoid touching your eyes nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

In addition, unnecessary and unprotected contact with animals should be avoided and in a case where contact takes place, be sure to thoroughly wash hands with soap and water. It shouldn’t be overlooked that constant sanitizing of hands in absence of soap and water is necessary.

**Effects of these measures on Nigerians**

More than 60 per cent of Nigerians survive on daily pay from menial jobs and petty trading. A lockdown means their means of daily livelihood has been locked down. The plight of private sector employees is no better. Many private employers have maintained a ‘no salary during lockdown’ stance, or at least a 50% pay cut. Some have even completely completely laid the workers off. Therefore, tellng people t stay at home is like telling them to starve for the lockdown period.Aniete Ewang said “millions of Nigerians observing the COVID-19 lockdown lack the food and income that their families need to survive.” In order for people to survive the lockdown, the government has to provide palliatives and distribute foodstuff and domestic essentials to the general public, especially the poor masses, to cushion the effects of the lockdown. Pangs of hunger will lead to widespread anger. Protests in different forms are already being seen within the communities. People are protesting against the high-handedness of law enforcement agents, and even rejecting all manner of palliatives that serves as an insult to their intelligence, such as packs of food that are not enough to feed a family of six in 2 weeks being distributed to be shared among 60-80 families in a cluster. Therefore, the effects of the lockdown cuts across many spheres of life in nigerians and has negative social, economic, and political consequences.

**Conclusion**

To conclude, this report has addressed the background, definition, symptoms and preventive measures of coronavius including the various ways in which it has affected the lives of Nigerians in the social, economic, and political spheres.