

CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECT OF THE LOCKDOWN ON NIGERIANS

Corona virus is a new disease that originated from Wuhan in China in late December 2019. It is a disease that spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes or it might even be transmitted through physical contact. Since the virus became a major outbreak in February, some preventive measures have been put in place to help slow down the spread of the virus, which has proven effective until now. Some of the preventive measures are washing your hands frequently with soap and running water, using an alcohol based hand sanitizer, wearing face masks and hand gloves to protect you from inhaling droplets or touching your face with your hands, coughing or sneezing into a flexed elbow instead of your palms.

Meanwhile, people that have previously contacted the virus also spoke of symptoms similar with the deadly virus. Some notable symptoms were fever, dry cough, tiredness these symptoms are general while for some particular people they may experience aches and pains, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat, diarrhoea. On average it takes five to six days from contracting the virus for the symptoms to show, however it can take up to 14 days for the virus to completely manifest, therefore before a person can be tested for the virus the latter has to be put into self isolation for up to fourteen days, which after a test is run and the results show whether the person is positive or negative.

The first confirmed case of Covid-19 in Nigeria was announced on 21st february 2020, when an Italian citizen in Lagos ~~was~~ tested positive for the virus. On 9th march 2020 a second case of the virus was reported in Ogun state, a Nigerian citizen who had contact with the Italian.

On March 30, 2020, the president of Nigeria, General Muhammadu Buhari announced a 14-day extension of the lockdown in three major cities which are Lagos, Ogun and Abuja. The lockdown has brought nothing but hardship to the citizens living hard to mouth, Although the government pledged a series of support measures to ease the financial pain for most of the vulnerable but there has been widespread complaint that not enough has been done for those facing hunger. The citizens also reported to the ~~NHRC~~ that law enforcers like police have killed about eighteen people in Nigeria since the lockdown began on 20th march, It was also reported that they collect unnecessary dues and violate the human rights of the people.

In conclusion, the citizens are not comfortable about the lockdown and restriction of movement and demand that the government provide adequate food, constant ~~and~~ electricity and other essentials for ~~the~~ the period of the lockdown while they keep safe at home to keep the virus at bay.