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MATRIC NO.: 19/ENG03/009

COURSE CODE GST 122

**CORONAVIRUS AND ITS EFFECT IN NIGERIA**

Coronavirus disease which is universally known as “COVID-19” is a contagious disease produced by a newly ascertained coronavirus. This virus alters people in diverse ways. The most shared symptoms are fatigue, fever, and dehydrated cough. There are also other symptoms a few people may come across e.g. uncomfortable throat, runny nose, nasal congestion, etc. This disease affects elderly people ever more than the youth because they have weakened immune system. It also has more effect on individuals with previous medical conditions.

The disease can disperse from one man to another through droplets from the nose or mouth of a diseased person. These droplets set down on objects and surfaces close to the person. This makes it easier to be transmitted from one person to another. When unaffected people come in contact with these surfaces without performing hand hygiene after, they could unknowingly touch either their eyes, nose or mouth. This could possibly infect the individual. It can also be transferred once the droplets are inhaled. That’s why the general public is adviced to practice social distancing.

It can prevented by five (5) easy steps which are:

* **STAY** home as much as you can
* **KEEP** a safe distance
* **WASH** your hands often
* **COVER** your mouth while coughing
* **SICK?** call ahead the NCDC

At the end of December 2019, public health officials from China informed the World Health Organization (WHO) that they had a problem an unknown, new virus was causing pneumonia like sickness in the city of Wuhan. They discovered it was Coronavirus and it was quickly extending through and outside of Wuhan.

The first case of Coronavirus in Nigeria was an Italian who works in Nigeria and came back from Milan, Italy to Lagos, Nigeria on 25th Feb. 2020. He was confirmed by the Virology Lab of Lagos University Teaching Hospital. The patient is presently steady with no major symptoms of Coronavirus.

It is calamitous that the Covid-19 pandemic took the world by shock. What initiated as viral infection in Wuhan, China has expanded into a pandemic of vast amount. There is a virus that is worse than the Coronavirus; which is bringing about anarchy in Nigeria. This is known as “Hunger Virus”. There are reports of angry and starving youths attacking parts of Lagos requesting money for food in the middle of the coronavirus lockdown in the state. The event has brought to light another possibly dangerous challenge that requires equally urgent attention as been given to the Coronavirus.

There has also been a sudden increase in the crime rate in Lagos. 200 suspects were allegedly taken into custody on counts of robbing this past few weeks. Members of the public have resulted to securing themselves and their community in the absence of the Police.

The religious custom of hundreds of millions of Nigerians are going through changes in reaction to the Covid-19 pandemic brought about by a new coronavirus. According to estimates 46 of the population practice Islam, 46.3 practice Christianity and 7.4 practice Traditional religions. The calamity has encouraged a lot of religious leaders to entreat their followers to not just take safety measures but also to support their spirituality to help threaten the health, social, and economic tasks ahead.

The pandemic is still on going and I hope it ends soon.