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**19/MHS11/O64**

**PHARMACY**

**TOPIC: Write a report of not more than two pages, on the corona virus (COVID- 19) pandemic and the effects of the lockdown and restriction on movement on Nigerians.**

**Introduction:**

Corona Virus (COVID-19) was discovered in the city of Wuhan, China at the end of 2019 where the first infection was reported and spread to the other parts of the world through travels/movements of affected persons to other regions of the world.

By 11 March 2020, Corona Virus otherwise known, as COVID-19 has become a global emergency given its impact on the entire world population and the economy therefore, the World Health Organization (WHO) of the United Nations declared it a pandemic. Before the end of March 2020, globally an estimated number of people infected was more than 1,030,324 while more than 54,207 deaths have been recorded and about 219,896 were gradually recovering across 204 countries and territories around the world that have been affected by the virus. Between the end of March 2020 and 20 April 2020 when this report is being written, the figures of those infected was more than 2,000,000 while more than 160,000 deaths have been recorded and 350,000 are gradually recovering globally. These figures however, keep on increasing on daily basis and it is expected that when proper solutions are found they will stop increasing.

In Nigeria, the index case was first discovered in Lagos through a foreigner who travelled out of Nigeria although working in Nigeria, was infected while he was in one of the countries in Europe, and flew in with the disease into the Country. After the index case, there were cases of others who also imported the disease into the country because of their visits to United States of America, United Kingdom, France and other countries where the disease has already affected. Lagos state was the first state affected in Nigeria and thereafter case were reported in Ogun State due to its proximity to Lagos. The Federal Capital Territory was also affected after Ogun State due to the inflow of people from Lagos to Abuja or from those countries that have been affected into the Federal Capital Territory.

As at 1: 00 p.m. today Monday 20 April 2020, when this report is being written, 627 confirmed cases had been reported with about 21 deaths. The breakdown by states is as follows: Lagos 376; FCT 88; Kano 36; Osun 20; Oyo 16; Ogun 12; Katsina 12; kwara 9; Akwa ibom 9; Bauchi 7; Kaduna 6; Delta 4; Ekiti 3; Ondo 3; Enugu 2; Rivers 2; Niger 2; Jigawa 2; Benue, Anambra, and Borno States 1 each. It is expected that if adequate measures are not put in place, these figures will rise significantly and the virus will find its ways to some of the states that are yet to be affected.

Due to significant increase in the number of cases confirmed in Lagos and its adjoining State – Ogun as well as FCT(Abuja), the President Muhammadu Buhari made a nation-wide broadcast on Monday 29 March 2020 to inform Nigerians that Lagos State, Ogun State as well as FCT would go on total lockdown for 14 days – from Tuesday 31 March 2020 to 13 April 2020. The President through another nation-wide broadcast further extended the lockdown from 14 April 20, 2020 to 27 April 2020. The other State Governments in the Federation have also announced lockdowns as part of measures to contain the spread of the disease.

**Effects of Lockdown and Restriction of Movement on Nigerians**

Based on the efforts of various governments both at National and State levels to contain the spread of the virus within the country, the governments announced lockdown and restriction of movements of people for some days/weeks to see the positive impact the lockdown and restriction would have in reducing the spread. However, the following have been identified as the effects of lockdown and restriction on movements:

1. **Lacks of basic household food items**: Because most people did not anticipate the lockdown and restriction of movements, they did not make plans to stock food items. Although some governments provided food items to support people, but these food items were either diverted or not given to indigents that ought to be the beneficiaries.
2. Workers could not go to work expect those considered essential workers
3. **All schools closed down:** Primary to tertiary institutions closed down thereby keeping pupils/students at home doing nothing. Although, some institutions organize online studies for the students but not all. This closure of schools will have negative impact on the academic calendar and performance.
4. **Loss in Economic Activities:** Due to lockdown and restriction of movements, except those dealing on food items and pharmaceuticals, other economic activities have been paralyzed. People in other areas of economic activities cannot carry out their daily livelihood activities.
5. **Governments/Organization would have to spend more:** Various governments/organizations would have to spend more money in order to assist people to survive by providing essential items as part of palliatives for the lockdown and restrictions.
6. **Inability to attend Worship Centers:** The lockdown and restriction of movements have stopped people from attending either churches or mosques. People now say their prayers at homes.
7. **Inability to attend social gatherings:** People can also not attend weddings, birthday parties and other social gatherings due to lockdown and restriction of movements.
8. **Travel from one location to another is no longer possible:** Citizens can no longer undertake any form of travels be it intra city or intercity. It is also impossible to travel by either air or road outside the country.
9. **Increase in robbery:** Because there was no adequate plans prior to the lockdown and movements, there have been increase in robbery activities by criminal looking for what to survive on.
10. **Our Health System is over stretched:** Because this is a new disease, which have no solutions in sight, the health system both at state and federal levels are over stretched which could also have negative impact on the cases being attended by health workers before the advent of corona virus.