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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.

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 frequently and not touching your face.

The COVID-19 virus spreads 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).

President Muhammadu Buhari on March 29 declared a total lockdown on the Federal Capital Territory-FCT, Lagos and Ogun States. However, the government of Ogun State opted to commence in April 3 to enable both government and residents prepare.

The lockdown was announced as a measure to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic which is fast spreading around the world leaving deaths in its wake.

Those that will be affected the hardest will be households that rely on the day to day activities of self-employed individuals for consumption.

Lagos is the country’s major economic centre as well as its financial capital. Ogun state borders Lagos state to the south and is notable for having a high concentration of industrial estates and being a major manufacturing hub. Abuja is the seat of government.

Nigeria is one of many countries to shut down economic activities to prevent the rapid spread of the coronavirus pandemic. Most, especially developed nations, have implemented economic support measures to mitigate the impact of lockdowns on their economies.

In his [speech to the nation](https://guardian.ng/life/buharis-speech-how-the-coronavirus-lockdown-may-affect-nigerians/), the Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, acknowledged that the restrictions may make it hard for people to feed themselves and so “relief materials” would be distributed to communities around the states affected.

But the Nigerian government will have to take into account the country’s peculiar economic circumstances when it implements its mitigating measures. In particular, it must bear in mind the millions of Nigerian households whose livelihoods depend on the self-employed and small scale entrepreneurs.

Nigeria has a very high self-employment rate. In terms of occupational proportions from a household perspective, [my research](https://www.deepdyve.com/lp/emerald-publishing/organising-household-consumption-and-occupational-proportions-E1CeQbZEba) showed that 41.4% of household members reported being own account self-employment, 26.5% in paid employment, 2.8% reported that they were employers of labour, 15.7% indicted that they were unemployed, while 13.6% reported being non-active in the labour force.

This generally agrees with the figures from the [National Bureau of Statistics](https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/elibrary?queries%5Bsearch%5D=employment), although it should be noted that the unemployment rate in Nigeria has recently gotten worse and the national unemployment rate doesn’t reflect the situation in individual states.