

The coronavirus pandemic currently shocking the world gained entry into Nigeria with its first case confirmed on the 27th of February, 2020 in Lagos state. The discovery spiralled into a frenzy of misinformation as the NCDC and Federal Ministry of Health worked to allay citizens' fears and contain the outbreak. It is important that we all play a role in beating the virus by sharing only validated information and promoting effective preventive measures.

The Coronavirus CivActs Campaign (CCC) gathers rumours, concerns and questions from communities across Nigeria to eliminate information gaps between the government, media, NGOs and citizens. By providing the public with facts, the CCC ensures a better understanding of needs regarding the coronavirus and debunks rumours before they can do more harm. Information sharing will be critical to defeating the virus, due to the diverse cultural backgrounds and drawbacks in national education.

Coronavirus poses a serious threat to Nigeria's population of over 180 million people given the country's weak healthcare system, high level of poverty, crowded living conditions and deep-set corruption in government. Economic and insecurity conditions in Nigeria were already tenuous before this outbreak, and Nigeria already fares badly against any health indicators, with high mortality rates and poor life expectancy. When and if coronavirus hits the highly populated communities of Nigeria's cities, it could be a disaster.

It is absolutely critical that Nigeria deals with this pandemic in forward-thinking, open, transparent ways to ensure the well-being of citizens, build resilience and rapidly curb the potential for social conflict. In Nigeria, this is a huge challenge but also a real opportunity to reimagine public health systems, redefine the relationship between citizens and those in power, and reinvigorate governance.

## Reopening of schools for exit classes

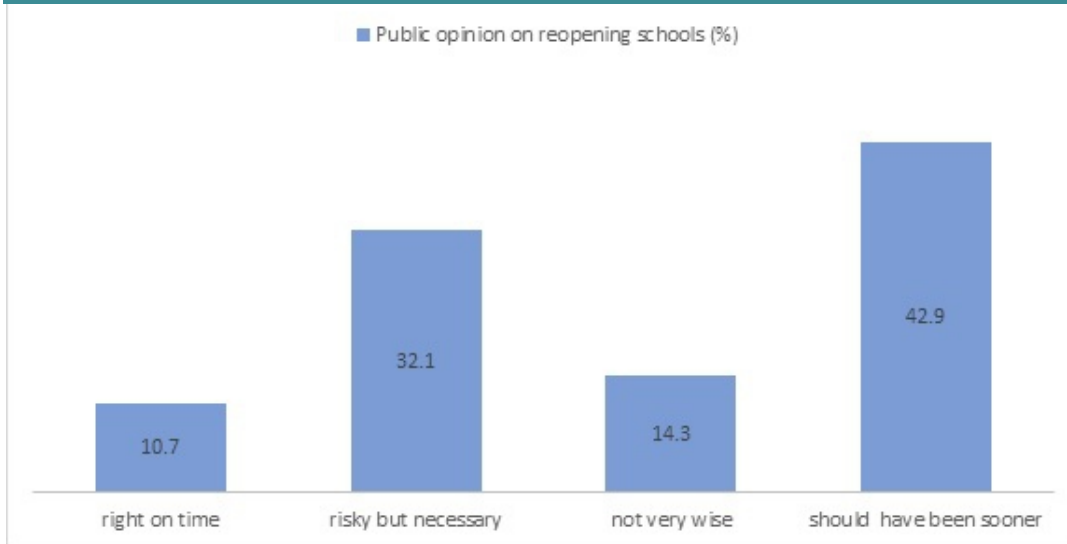
The Federal Ministry of Education has directed secondary schools in Nigeria to reopen from the 4th of August, 2020 for exit classes only. Students have been afforded two weeks to prepare for the West African Examinations (WAEC) scheduled to start on the 17th August, 2020.

The decision to reopen schools was reached at a virtual consultative meeting between the Federal Ministry of Education, Honourable Commissioners of Education of the 36 states, the Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT), the proprietors of private schools and Chief Executives of examination bodies.

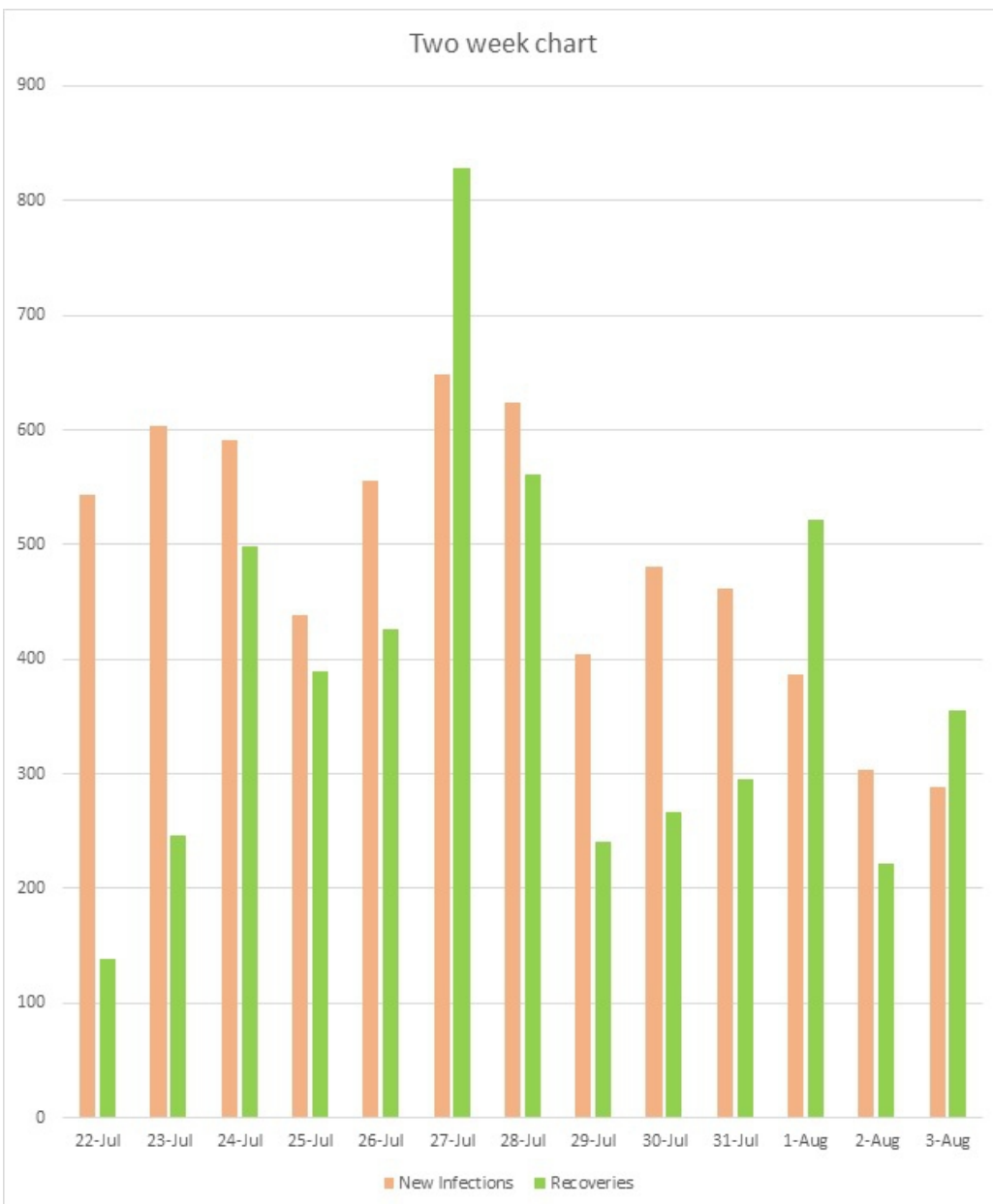
The meeting also resolved that a passionate appeal be made to the Federal Government through the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 and public-spirited Nigerians for assistance to schools across the country to enable them fast-track the preparations for safe reopening.

Another meeting has been scheduled between the Federal Ministry of Education and Chief Executives of examination bodies namely, NECO, NABTEB and NBAIS to harmonise their examination dates, which will be conveyed to stakeholders by the ministry of education.

## PUBLIC OPINION ON THE REOPENING OF SCHOOLS



## COVID-19 Infection vs Recovery chart



## RUMOURS



VS



## FACTS

If I recover from COVID-19 once, I am immune for life

COVID-19 tests are too expensive for the average Nigerian to afford

NAFDAC has approved Pax herbal remedy for COVID-19

Wearing gloves protects against COVID-19

Adding hot spices to your food will prevent COVID-19

There is not enough evidence to know for sure if people who have recovered from COVID-19 can become infected again. Though some patients have tested positive a second time, these cases have been attributed to testing issues or residual virus traces.

COVID-19 tests conducted in facilities within the NCDC molecular lab network are free of charge.

NAFDAC has not listed or registered any remedy from Pax Herbal for the treatment of COVID-19 and has put out a disclaimer to address the controversial advert that started the rumour.

Gloves can only prevent infection if you don't touch your face with your gloved hands, and only if you take off and dispose of the gloves correctly before washing your hands.

Spices and peppers on your food may alter the taste but cannot prevent or cure COVID-19. The best means of protection is to keep at least 1 metre away from others and frequent hand washing.

### NCDC molecular lab network

As of the 2nd of August, the NCDC has expanded their lab network to 61 facilities around the country in order to scale up testing for COVID-19. All tests conducted within the network are free of charge. The laboratories and the states in which they are situated are as follows.

1. State Specialist Hospital, Amachara lab, Abia. - GeneXpert
2. State Specialist Hospital, Amachara. - PCR Laboratory
3. Federal Medical Centre Yola, Adamawa. - PCR Laboratory
4. Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory, Akwa Ibom State. - PCR Laboratory
5. Accunalysis medical diagnostics, Anambra. - PCR Laboratory
6. COOUTH Awka Abbott lab. - PCR Laboratory
7. Bauchi state Reference Laboratory. Bauchi. - PCR Laboratory
8. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital. - PCR Laboratory

- 9.161 AHM lab, Benue. - GeneXpert
10. University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital, Borno. - PCR Laboratory
11. Lawrence Henshaw Memo Calabar, Cross Rivers. - GeneXpert
12. UCTH Lab
13. Delta Mobile Laboratory, Delta. - PCR Laboratory
14. Alex Ekwueme Federal University Teaching Hospital, Ebonyi. - PCR Laboratory
15. Irua Specialist Teaching Hospital, Edo. - PCR Laboratory
16. University of Benin Teaching Hospital. - PCR Laboratory
17. Edo Specialist Hospital, Benin. - PCR Laboratory
18. Ekiti - 54gene, Ekiti. - PCR Laboratory
19. University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital lab, Enugu. - GeneXpert
20. University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital Molecular Virology Laboratory. - PCR Laboratory
21. Everight diagnostics and Laboratory services Ltd, Imo. - PCR Laboratory
22. Federal Medical Centre Owerri lab. - GeneXpert
23. Jigawa molecular lab, Jigawa. - PCR Laboratory
24. DNA laboratory, Kaduna. - PCR Laboratory
25. Africa Centre of Excellence for Neglected Tropical Diseases and Forensic Biotechnology, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. - PCR Laboratory
26. Mobile lab, Kaduna. - GeneXpert
27. Yusuf Dansoho Memorial Hospital lab. - GeneXpert
28. Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Kano. - PCR Laboratory
29. 54gene, Kano. - PCR Laboratory
30. International Foundation Against Infectious Diseases in Nigeria (IFAIN). - PCR Laboratory
31. EHA lab, Kano. - PCR Laboratory
32. Bayero University, Kano. - PCR Laboratory
33. Sahel Centre for Molecular Diagnostics and Research, Katsina. - PCR Laboratory
34. State Specialist Hospital, Kogi lab, Kogi. - GeneXpert
35. Sobi Specialist Hospital, Kwara. - PCR Laboratory
36. Virology Lagos University Teaching Hospital, Lagos. - PCR Laboratory
37. Nigeria Institute for Medical Research. - Closed System
38. Biosafety Level-3 Laboratory. - PCR Laboratory
39. 54gene, Lagos. - PCR Laboratory
40. NCDC Central Public Health Laboratory. - PCR Laboratory
41. Zankli lab, Nasarawa. - GeneXpert
42. 54gene Ogun, Ogun. - PCR Laboratory
43. Afriglobal Medicare Laboratory. - PCR Laboratory
44. FMC Owo, Ondo. - PCR Laboratory
45. African Centre of Excellence for Genomics of Infectious Diseases, Osun. - PCR Laboratory
46. University College Hospital Virology department laboratory, Oyo. - PCR Laboratory
47. Biorepository and clinical virology lab, University College Hospital. - PCR Laboratory
48. National Veterinary Research Institute, Plateau. - PCR Laboratory
49. Jos University Teaching Hospital lab. - GeneXpert
50. University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, Rivers. - PCR Laboratory
51. Rivers State University Teaching Hospital Satellite Molecular Laboratory. - PCR Laboratory
52. SPDC (shell) lab. - PCR Laboratory
53. Indorama Company Molecular Laboratory. - PCR Laboratory
54. Centre for Advanced Medical Research and Training, Usmanu Danfodio University, Sokoto. - PCR Laboratory
55. NCDC National Reference Laboratory, FCT. - PCR Laboratory
56. Defense Reference Laboratory. - Closed System
57. FCT - 54gene. - PCR Laboratory
58. State House Annex Clinic lab (SHAC). - PCR Laboratory
59. University of Abuja, Gwagwalada Laboratory. GeneXpert Laboratory
60. United Nations IOM Lab. - GeneXpert Laboratory
61. Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory, Gombe State Specialist Hospital. - PCR Laboratory