

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. About 47% of the Nigerian population have access to internet services in according to a 2018 estimate by Statista.

Ease of Lockdown and Community Transmission

On the 18th of May, the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 announced a continuation of the gradual ease of lockdown measures ordered by President Muhammadu Buhari on the 27th of April. This means the same measures that were announced by the President would continue unabated for 2 more weeks in order balance curtailing the spread of the virus and maintaining the economy.

The NCDC has announced that the coronavirus is currently in the community transmission phase and it is important for citizens to adhere to social distancing measures and wearing of masks in public. The Lagos state government for example, has raised concerns over the overwhelming of existing isolation centres and has announced that only severe cases will admitted at the centres going forward. An exponential increase in the rate of patients combined with long recovery periods could result in a strain on existing medical facilities and less patients having access to medical care. It is important for Nigerians to understand the necessity of taking precaution and refrain from spreading misinformation on the COVID-19 pandemic. Seek only valid information from knowledgeable sources such as the WHO, Federal Ministry of Health and NAFDAC.

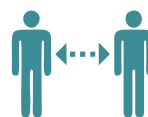
SOME TIPS TO STAYING SAFE AS THE LOCKDOWN EASES



Wash your hands
regularly



Ensure you wear a
face mask



Ensure to maintain
physical distancing



Use an alcohol base
sanitiser

State emergency COVID-19 contact numbers

| S/N | GEO-POLITICAL ZONES/STATES | HOTLINE | TOLL FREE NUMBER | EMAIL/SOCIAL MEDIA |
|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| NORTH-EAST ZONE | | | | |
| 1 | Adamawa State | 08031230359 | 08115850085 | Twitter.com/covid19Adamawa |
| | | 07080601139 | 07025040415 | Facebook: Covid19 Adamawa |
| | | | 09044235334 | |
| 2 | Borno State | 08088159881 | 08009999999 | |
| 3 | Bauchi State | 08023909309 | | |
| | | 08032717887 | | |
| | | 08059600898 | | |
| | | 08033698036 | | |
| | | 08080330216 | | |
| | | 8036911698 | | |
| 4 | Gombe State | 08103371257 | | |
| | | 07026256569 | | |
| | | 07045257107 | | |
| | | 07025227843 | | |
| | | 07026761392 | | |
| | | 07026799901 | | |
| | | 7042145504 | | |
| 5 | Taraba State | 08065508675 | | |
| | | 08032501165 | | |
| | | 08039359368 | | |
| | | 8037450227 | | |
| 6 | Yobe State | 08131834764 | | |
| | | 7041116027 | | |

RUMOURS



There's a drug for COVID-19 that the government doesn't want to reveal

COVID-19 does not exist because patients are not given their test results

Videos of patients dancing at Isolation centres show they are not sick

NCDC is preparing a COVID-19 relief package for Nigerians

COVID-19 is not in Nigeria as the NCDC is not airing videos of patients

VS



FACTS

There is no specific validated drug for the novel coronavirus yet. However, clinical trials are ongoing to find an effective drug. Remdesivir for example showed 4.8% less mortality rate than a placebo in a study of 1,063 patients. Chloroquine trials were stopped by the WHO after a publication indicated that use of the drug could lead to higher mortality.

According to the DG NCDC, test results are sent to the state epidemiologist and it is their prerogative to release results, not the Doctor administering care.

COVID-19 does not make every patient bedridden or unable to move. According to the Chinese CDC, only 14% of infected people experience severe symptoms, while 6% need intensive care. Isolation is important to help stop the spread of the virus.

NCDC's mandate is to support States in preparing, detecting & responding to infectious disease outbreaks, not provide relief.

It is against medical ethics to release information on a patient without their consent. However, some patients have voluntarily chosen to give their experiences with the illness on TV, print and social media. Leaked videos have showed some patients with mild symptoms dancing which could misconstrue the situation.

Testing for COVID-19

The ultimate determinant of a COVID-19 patient is testing. This is because symptoms of the illness vary from patient to patient depending on their level of immune response. Also, some symptoms for coronavirus are indicative of other diseases; just as fever is a symptom for the virus, it is also a symptom for malaria and typhoid and could be mistaken for one another. It is important not to self-medicate and seek the advice of health professionals before engaging in any drug regimen.

As of today, over 40,000 tests have been conducted for the virus in Nigeria, with approximately 17% of that number testing positive for the virus. The NCDC is planning to test over 2 million Nigerians in the next three months in efforts to determine the spread of the virus.

The method of testing used to confirm COVID-19 in Nigeria is called the Reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) test also called the nucleic acid amplification test. It is the most reliable method for Laboratory confirmation of the virus and can determine if a patient is infected early on. This is the only method endorsed by the NCDC because it is highly sensitive and more accurate than rapid testing kits. Currently, no rapid test kit is endorsed by the WHO for detection of the virus.

What type of samples are collected for a test?

A trained health worker wearing personal protective equipment uses a sterile swab to collect a sample from the back of a suspected patient's nose or throat. After collection, swabs are placed in a transport tube, carefully packaged with the person's details and transported to the nearest laboratory within the NCDC laboratory network for testing.

Testing conducted through the NCDC laboratory network is free of charge. If you are showing symptoms of COVID-19 and believe you have had close contact with a confirmed case, call your state helpline at <https://covid19.ncdc.gov.ng/contact/>. It is important to self-isolate while awaiting your test results to prevent possible spread of infection. Wear a face mask and ensure your immediate environment is frequently cleaned with disinfectant.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE IN NIGERIA AT AS TODAY - 07/06/2020

12,233

CONFIRMED CASES

342

DEATHS

3,826

RECOVERED

76,802

TESTED