

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.

## Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19

Since the pronouncement of the lockdown a lot of questions have popped up regarding its necessity and many Nigerians still do not seem to understand the reasons for strict government measures implemented during this period. This is an attempt to explain important terms and reasons behind the lockdown efforts. It is also important to note that scientists are still working to understand all the parameters by which the virus operates.

What is  
COVID-19



COVID-19 stands for "Coronavirus Disease 2019" because it is a disease of the coronavirus family that was first discovered in Wuhan, China in December 2019. It is primarily spread through close contact with infected persons and symptoms of the disease include fever, cough and shortness of breath.

What is  
Symptomatic  
vs  
Asymptomatic



One of the major reasons the government is ordering cessation of movement is that it is possible for someone with COVID-19 to spread it even though they are not showing symptoms of the disease. A symptomatic person is one that shows the symptoms of the disease while carrying it, while an asymptomatic person does not show symptoms of the disease but can still spread it.

Why should  
we wear  
masks in  
public, market  
places, etc.



Wearing masks reduces the risk of transmission between two people. COVID-19 is spread through small droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, talks or even breathes out. A person wearing a mask has a lower risk of transmitting the virus than a person not wearing one.

What drugs did recovered COVID-19 cases take to cure themselves



There is no validated treatment for COVID-19 yet. Scientists are working to discover a vaccine for the virus. Most recently, researchers from the Chinese company Sinovac Biotech have developed a vaccine that was proven effective in protecting monkeys and are starting human trials. The FDA has issued fresh warnings against the use of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine in the treatment of COVID-19.

Why is the NCDC not releasing the identities of patients?



It is against the ethics of the medical profession to release the identity of any patient of any illness. They could be stigmatized or ostracised as a result. Some patients do choose to voluntarily speak on their experiences to the public.

## RUMOURS



VS



## FACTS

Shaving beards reduces chances of getting the virus.

Having facial hair does not increase risk of infection. It is important to maintain good personal hygiene and take protective measures.

COVID-19 is contracted only by older people, or the rich and influential.

COVID-19 can be contracted by anyone regardless their age or financial status, although people with pre-existing medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes, and heart disease are more vulnerable.

Taking antibiotics prevents a person from having the virus.

Antibiotics work only on bacteria; they do not prevent COVID-19, which is a viral infection.

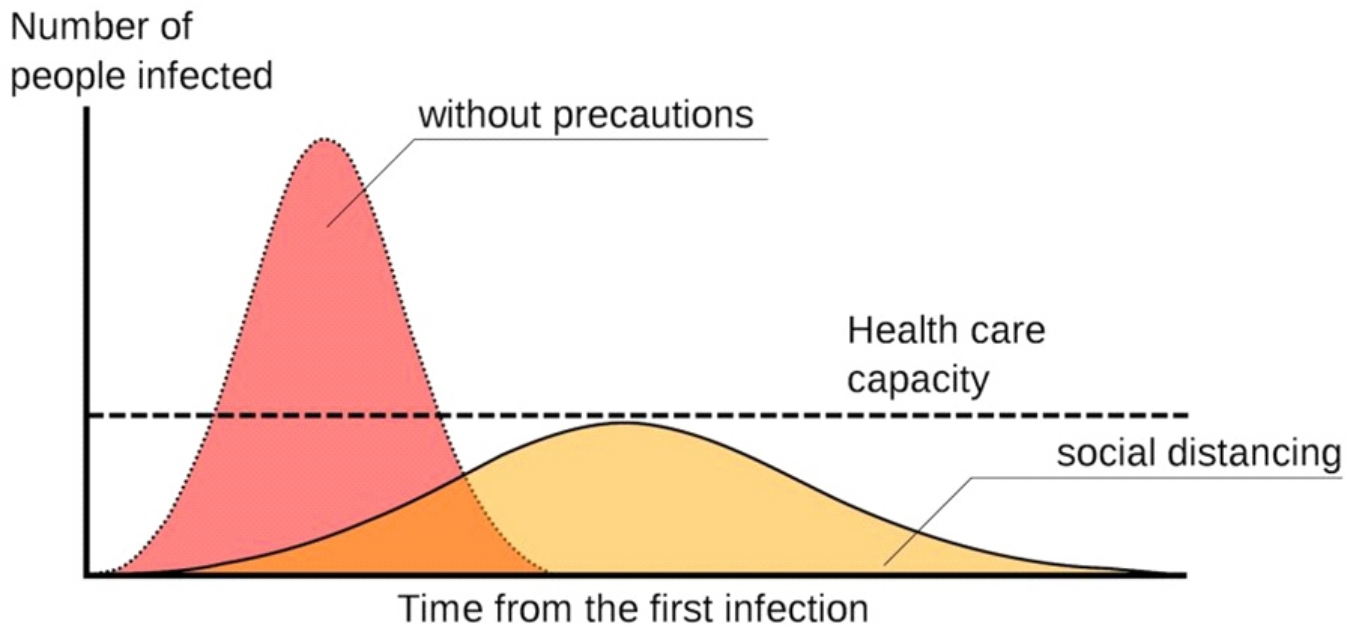
Using hand dryer is effective in killing the virus.

Hand dryer does not kill COVID-19. It is advised to maintain hygiene by washing your hands with soap and water, then drying with paper towels or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

## Flattening the curve

The "curve" researchers are talking about refers to the projected number of people that can contract COVID-19 over a period of time. It is only a projection of the virus spread based on past pandemics and not a hard prediction of how many people will be infected.

### A sample epidemic curve



(Image credit: Johannes Kalliauer/ CC BY-SA 4.0)

The curve takes on different shapes, depending on the virus's infection rate. It could be a steep curve, where the case counts keep doubling at a consistent rate, and the total number of cases skyrockets to its peak within a few weeks. Infection curves with a steep rise also have a steep fall; after the virus infects pretty much everyone who can be infected, case numbers begin to drop exponentially, too.

The faster the infection curve rises, the quicker the local health care system gets overloaded beyond its capacity to treat people. As we're seeing in Italy, more and more new patients may be forced to go without ICU beds, and more and more hospitals may run out of the basic supplies they need to respond to the outbreak.

A flatter curve, on the other hand, assumes the same number of people ultimately get infected, but over a longer period of time. A slower infection rate means a less stressed health care system, fewer hospital visits on any given day and fewer sick people being turned away.

## How do we flatten the curve?

The only way to flatten the curve is through collective action. The Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC) has recommended that all Nigerians wash their hands frequently, self-isolate when they're sick or suspect they might be, and start "social distancing" (essentially, avoiding other people whenever possible).

## Does flattening the curve work?

It did in 1918, when a strain of influenza known as the Spanish flu caused a global pandemic. Health researcher Drew Harris compared the responses of two cities in the United States of America during the outbreak: Philadelphia and St. Louis

In Philadelphia, city officials ignored warnings from infectious disease experts that the flu was already spreading in the community. The city instead moved forward with a massive parade that gathered hundreds of thousands of people together, Harris said.

"Within 48, 72 hours, thousands of people around the Philadelphia region started to die, about 16,000 people from the city died in six months."

In St. Louis, meanwhile, city officials quickly implemented social isolation strategies. The government closed schools, limited travel and encouraged personal hygiene and social distancing. As a result, the city saw just 2,000 deaths – one-eighth of the casualties in Philadelphia.

The city had successfully flattened the curve.

The curve takes on different shapes, depending on the virus's infection rate. It could be

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE IN NIGERIA AT AS TODAY - 27/04/2020

**1273**

CONFIRMED CASES

**40**

DEATHS

**239**

RECOVERED

Coronavirus CivActs Campaign is brought to you by  
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