

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

Following the conclusion of the #LockdownExtension on April 27, President Muhammadu Buhari announced in a nationwide broadcast a phased and gradual easing of lockdown measures in the FCT, Lagos and Ogun states effective from Monday, 4th May.

He explained that the decision came under the recommendations of the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19, the Nigeria Governors Forum and other Federal Government committees. He also explained that the impact of the previous four-week lockdown, the economic situation and food security among others were factors that were considered in arriving at this decision.

The ease of lockdown will be followed with aggressive reinforcement of testing and contact tracing measures however, as well as some new nationwide measures which include:



a. An overnight curfew from 8pm to 6am except for essential services personnel



b. A ban on non-essential inter-state passenger travel



c. Partial and controlled interstate movement of goods and services from producers to consumers



d. Mandatory use of face masks in public together with physical distancing

These guidelines however, will not apply to Kano state, which will undergo a total lockdown for a period of two weeks from the 27th of April. Other added preventive measures against COVID-19 as prescribed by the NCDC include:



1. No gathering of more than 10 people outside workplaces



2. No gatherings at mosques or churches



3. No international flights except essential flights



4. Provision of soap and running water or sanitizers by facility or business owners



5. Mandatory temperature screening in public places



6. Controlled access to markets and business locations

## RUMOURS



VS



## FACTS

If NCDC does not announce COVID-19 cases in my area then it's safe to hold gatherings.

The NCDC can only determine cases after testing and not before. There's no telling if someone in your neighbourhood has contracted the virus till they begin to show symptoms. It's best to play it safe, assume everyone does (including yourself) and practice physical distancing.

If I begin showing symptoms of coronavirus the best step is to go to the hospital.

It is advised that if you begin to show symptoms of COVID-19 you should place a phone call to toll free lines 112, 080097000010 or any of the emergency numbers designated for your state. Call your healthcare provider for instructions beforehand. Moving around in public could risk spreading the virus to others.

## RUMOURS



VS



## FACTS

Since the Federal government has eased the lockdown it means coronavirus is going away. There is no longer need for social distancing.

If you can't spell or pronounce "corona" you can't catch the coronavirus.

Drinking two spoonful of palm oil can stop the spread of coronavirus.

The easing of the lockdown in Lagos, FCT and Ogun was based on many factors especially economic as stated and it is no indication that the virus is receding. It is best to stay safe, practice good hygiene and adequate physical distancing measures.

COVID-19 is a biological virus that is spread through contact with infected persons or contaminated surfaces. It has no bearing in superstitious practices.

Palm oil has not been verified as a valid means of protection or cure against COVID-19. Prevention via physical distancing measures still remains the most effective means of preventing infection.

## The COVID-19 situation in Kano State

A two-week total lockdown was ordered in Kano state by President Muhammadu Buhari from the 27th of April with promises to deploy all necessary human, material and technical resources to support the state in controlling and containing the pandemic and preventing the risk of further spreading to neighbouring states. A number of states such as Plateau and Enugu have seen COVID-19 cases who were travellers from Kano. Also, the recent action by the state government to "deport" destitute children known as 'Almajiris' has resulted in a surge of cases in other states such as Kaduna.

Recently the Federal Government delivered 110 trucks of rice grains to Kano to support the lockdown efforts. Unfortunately, the state has seen a recent upsurge in deaths due to "strange illnesses" which the state government have denied are a result of COVID-19 infection. However, the state has resorted to verbal autopsies to

determine the deaths of citizens which are not as effective in determining COVID-19 which presents with flu like symptoms.

It is important for citizens of Kano state to understand the gravity of the situation in Kano, especially considering that the COVID-19 testing lab in Kano halted activity due to infection of its workers. These are all indications of a community spread in the state. Citizens need to adhere to physical distancing measures as much as possible and demand accountability from the relevant authorities to ensure they get to the root of the matter. Protection of the most vulnerable such as the elderly should be a high priority.

## Emergency COVID-19 contact numbers

### North-Central

S/N	GEO-POLITICAL ZONES/STATES	HOTLINE
1	Benue State	09018602439 07025031214
2	Federal Territory Capital	08099936312 08099936313 08099936314 07080631500 08031230330 08031230508 – Toll free
3	Kogi State	7088292249 8150953486 8095227003 7043402122
4	Kwara State	09062010001 9062010002
5	Nasarawa State	08036018579 08035871718 08033254549 08036201904 08032910826 08121243191

		Toll Free Lines
6	Niger State	09010999909 09010999910
7	Plateau State	07032864444 08035422711 08065486416 8035779917



### CORONAVIRUS UPDATE IN NIGERIA AT AS TODAY - 04/05/2020

**1,558**  
CONFIRMED CASES

**87**  
DEATHS

**400**  
RECOVERED

**17,566**  
TESTED