

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.

New developments in the COVID-19 response in Nigeria

Here is a breakdown of some of the major developments in the COVID-19 response as of September 1, 2020 based on the announcements of the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 and the Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC) and the Federal Ministry of Health:

- The COVID-19 case fatality rate has dropped slightly to 1.88%. This has been attributed to an improvement of treatment methods.
- The new epicentre of the virus in Nigeria is Plateau state. Other states that have been epicentres for the virus in the past are Kano, Lagos, Ogun and Akwa Ibom.
- Resumption of international flights has been rescheduled for the 5th of September, 2020.
- 14 private laboratories have been accredited for COVID-19 testing in Nigeria; 11 in Lagos and 1 each in FCT, Rivers and Imo
- 9 out of 36 states in Nigeria have published their COVID-19 expenditure so far, these include Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Ekiti, Oyo, Kwara, Kaduna, Katsina and Ebonyi.

Lagos State Reduces Isolation Centres:

Due to a decrease in the number of COVID-19 positive cases, the Lagos state government on August 2nd 2020 announced the shutdown of the Eti-Osa Isolation Centre and the Agidingbi Isolation

Centre, with patients in the latter being relocated to a large capacity Indo-Centre in Anthony area. The state governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu attributed the closures to a need to balance the economics of the COVID-19 response, saying that the state had built excess capacity centres with some of the centres at 20 per cent occupancy.

The governor also added that the Infectious diseases Hospital in Yaba is gradually being reverted to its status as a hospital to cater to all forms of infectious diseases and not just the coronavirus. Following this announcement was the lifting of the ban of places of worship in the state, which took effect on the 7th and 9th of August and social clubs on the 14th.

Fee paying accredited COVID-19 Laboratories in Nigeria (as of 1st September 2020)

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S/N	Name of Laboratory	State	Contact
1	Total Medical Services	Lagos	Total towers, Victoria island
2	SYNLAB	Lagos	9/11 Egbeyemi Street, Off Coker Road, ilupeju; +23470072842273
3	54gene	Lagos	+2347003424667363
4	Medbury Medical Services	Lagos	7B Admiralty way, Lekki phase 1; +2349070366247
5	Biologix Medical Services	Lagos	+2348069583073
6	O2 Medical Services	Lagos	No 7, General Hospital Rd, Gbagada Lagos; +2348119045519
7	Clina-Lancet Laboratories	Lagos	No 3, Babatunde Jose street, off Adetokunbo Ademola street, Victoria Island; +23417001310-399
8	Clinix Healthcare	Lagos	12, Alhaji Adejumo Avenue, off Gbagada-Oshodi expressway, Anthony; +2347066186358
9	Afriglobal Medicare	Lagos	8 Mobolaji Bank-Anthony way, by unity bustop, Ikeja;
10	Reddington Zaine Laboratory	Lagos	6B, Bendel close, off Bishop Aboyade street, Victoria Island
11	VCare Diagnostics Limited	Lagos	100, Adetokunbo Ademola, Victoria Island; +2347080631400
12	eHA Clinics	FCT	Plot 944, Asba and Dantata Street, off Olu Awotesu street
13	RNZ Laboratory	Rivers	info@rnzglobal.com
14	Everight Laboratory	Imo	Shop 7, Owerri Mall, Egbu road, Owerri; +2349066306001

RUMOURS



Herd Immunity is the best way to fight COVID-19

COVID-19 is only spread by a few people called 'super-spreaders'

Good nutrition can prevent the coronavirus

Healthy young people don't get sick of COVID-19

COVID-19 numbers are skewed to control the masses

VS



FACTS

Herd Immunity means that enough people have recovered from the virus so that they cannot infect others or get sick again. In order for that to work, 50-70% of the world population needs to get infected and then develop antibodies. The death toll of such a strategy would be quite large and it is not yet known how long immunity lasts.

Anyone can spread the coronavirus. On average, the carrier of the infection infects two or three people with the virus. Those that infect more than the average usually do so because they come into contact with a large number of people.

People cannot prevent coronavirus infection through diet. However, a healthy life-style including balanced diet has a positive significance in maintaining an immune system against virus attack.

Young, healthy people can and do get seriously ill with COVID-19. A person's bodily response to the coronavirus depends on their individual immune system, the amount of virus that infects them, genetic predisposition among other factors.

Unfortunately, many media channels are presenting a bleaker picture of the situation and feeding into conspiracy theories. However, rates of infection and mortality depend on mass testing figures which do not happen in most places and are sometimes prone to human error.

COVID-19 Vaccines in Development

The WHO released a definitive list of COVID-19 vaccines in development on the 28th of August. A total of 33 candidate vaccines are currently in the clinical testing phase, while 143 candidate vaccines are still in preclinical evaluation.

S/N	COVID-19 Vaccine developer/manufacturer	Number of doses	Timing of doses	Route of Administration	Clinical stage of testing
1	University of Oxford/AstraZeneca	1		Intramuscular (IM)	Phase 3
2	CanSino Biological Inc./Beijing Institute of Biotechnology	1		IM	Phase 3
3	Gamaleya Research Institute	2	0, 21 days	IM	Phase 3
4	Sinovac	2	0, 14 days	IM	Phase 3
5	Wuhan Institute of Biological Products/Sinopharm	2	0, 14 or 0, 21 days	IM	Phase 3
6	Beijing Institute of Biological Products/Sinopharm	2	0, 14 or 0, 21 days	IM	Phase 3
7	Moderna/NIAID	2	0, 28 days	IM	Phase 3
8	BioNTech/Fosun Pharma/Pfizer	2	0, 28 days	IM	Phase 3
9	Anhui Zhifei Longcom Biopharmaceutical/ Institute of Microbiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences	2 or 3	0, 28 or 0, 28, 56 days	IM	Phase 2
10	Curevac	2	0, 28 days	IM	Phase 2
11	Institute of Medical Biology, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences	2	0, 28 days	IM	Phase 1 / 2
12	Research Institute for Biological Safety Problems, Rep of Kazakhstan	2	0, 21 days	IM	Phase 1 / 2
13	Inovio Pharmaceutical/International	2	0, 28 days	Intradermal (ID)	Phase 1 / 2

S/N	COVID-19 Vaccine developer/manufacturer	Number of doses	Timing of doses	Route of Administration	Clinical stage of testing
	Vaccine Institute				
14	Osaka University/AnGes/Takara Bio	2	0, 14 days	IM	Phase 1 / 2
15	Cadila Healthcare Limited	3	0, 28, 56 days	ID	Phase 1 / 2
16	Genexine Consortium	2	0, 28 days	IM	Phase 1 / 2
17	Bharat Biotech	2	0, 14 days	IM	Phase 1 / 2
18	Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies	2	0, 56 days	IM	Phase 1 / 2
19	Noravax	2	0, 21 days	IM	Phase 1 / 2
20	Kentucky Bioprocessing, Inc	2	0, 21 days	IM	Phase 1 / 2
21	Arcturus/Duke-NUS			IM	Phase 1 / 2
22	ReiThera/LEUKOCARE/Univercells	1		IM	Phase 1
23	Clover Biopharmaceuticals Inc./GSK/Dynavax	2	0, 21 days	IM	Phase 1
24	Vaxine Pty Ltd/Medytox	1		IM	Phase 1
25	University of Queensland/CSL/Seqirus	2	0, 28 days	IM	Phase 1
26	Medigen Vaccine Biologics Corporation/NIAID/Dynavax	2	0, 28 days	IM	Phase 1
27	Instituto Finlay de Vacunas, Cuba	2	0, 28 days	IM	Phase 1
28	FBRI SRC VB VECTOR, Rospotrebnadzor, Koltsovo	2	0, 21 days	IM	Phase 1
29	West China Hospital, Sichuan University	2	0, 28 days	IM	Phase 1

30	Institute Pasteur/Themis/Univ. of Pittsburgh CVR/Merck Sharp & Dohme	1 or 2	0, 28 days	IM	Phase 1
31	Imperial College London	2		IM	Phase 1
32	People's Liberation Army (PLA) Academy of Military Sciences/Walvax Biotech.	2	0, 14 or 0, 28 days	IM	Phase 1
33	Medicago Inc.	2	0, 21 days	IM	Phase 1

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE IN NIGERIA AT AS TODAY - 04/09/2020

54,743

CONFIRMED CASES

1,051

DEATHS

42,816

RECOVERED

420,543

TESTED