

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.

## Updated eased lockdown guidelines

The Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 after economic, socio-political and health considerations has approved Phase 3.1 of the eased lockdown in Nigeria, set to be maintained for four weeks effective from Monday, the 19th of October, 2020. This entails some changes in the lockdown restrictions and responsibilities on the part of citizens. The requirements of Phase 3.1 are outlined below:

### A) Nationwide curfew has been revised to 12AM – 4AM daily



### B) Public spaces and Hospitals

The following restrictions are mandatory in public spaces:



1. Use of  
Face masks



2. Temperature  
checks



3. Handwashing  
facilities and hand  
sanitizers



4. Physical distancing  
of at least 2 metres



5. No gatherings  
of more than  
50 people



6. Hospital visits  
limited to patient's  
immediate family only

## C) Travel



1. Avoid unnecessary travel



2. Air travel resumed



3. Arrive early to the airport to avoid delays

## D) Schools and NYSC



1. All schools to reopen in phases



2. Government to assess risks and monitor school compliance with guidelines



3. NYSC camps reopening with guidelines and safety measures in place

## E) Markets and Restaurants



1. No mask, no entry. No mask, no service.



2. All restrictions on open days and occupancy in stores now removed



3. Restaurants open for outdoor service only

## F) Places of worship



1. Restricted opening as agreed by state governments and FCT.



2. Multiple services to be prioritized.

## G) Government Offices



1. Operate regular hours



2. All staff to resume work, alternate-day attendance for staff below GL 12.



3. Heads of MDAs to determine optimal capacity.

## H) Private Offices



1. Maintain regular hours.



2. Determine optimal capacity.



3. Comply with mandatory safety measures.

## I) Exercise and Entertainment



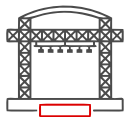
1. Restrictions removed on contact sports.



2. Use of recreational parks for physical activity is permitted.



3. Sporting leagues to resume in stadiums with no audience.



4. Event centers with outdoor spaces can open.



5. Gyms and cinemas to open at half capacity.



6. Hotels to remain open and observe mandatory safety measures.

## J) Elections



1.No mask, no voting.

## K) Bars and Clubs



1.To remain closed.

## RUMOURS



COVID-19 is a hoax for the government to embezzle funds

The coronavirus has gone away, the NCDC no longer reports cases

COVID-19 can be spread through insect bites

Cold weather can kill the novel coronavirus

A COVID-19 vaccine will be unsafe

## VS



## FACTS

Notwithstanding the allegations of corruption with regards to COVID-19 donations and disbursements, the coronavirus is still infecting people in Nigeria and around the world; with over 60,000 cases confirmed in the country as of 24 October, 2020.

The NCDC paused their social media activities as a sign of respect to lives lost following the recent violence in Nigeria. However, they have continued testing and reporting on COVID-19 on their website: <https://covid19.ncdc.gov.ng>

There is no evidence that COVID-19 can be spread through insect bites or transmitted through the blood.

There is no reason to believe that cold weather can kill the new coronavirus or other diseases. The normal human temperature remains around 36.5 to 37 degrees Celsius regardless of external temperature.

Understandably, there is good reason to be cautious about the safety of a new vaccine or treatment. However, before a vaccine is approved, it must undergo three phases of clinical testing to prove that it is safe and effective. The top COVID-19 vaccine candidates are currently being tested in large-scale trials in tens of thousands of people.

According to the PTF, the next stage of the COVID-19 response will include:

- Close monitoring of the impact of re-opening of schools and airports for international travel;
- Supporting States in developing and improving sample collection sites;
- Continued engagement of States with low sample collection rates to do better;
- Enhanced surveillance across the country coupled with piloting of new rapid diagnostic test kits;
- Monitoring the utilisation of funds provided to 32 States plus FCT for COVID-19 related activities.

### Looting of COVID-19 palliatives across Nigeria

Following the unravelling of the End SARS protests around the country, there have been widespread cases of looting of warehouses around Nigeria seen to contain COVID-19 palliatives bearing the seal of CACOVID, a private sector coalition against COVID-19 consisting of 111 companies as of the 25th of October 2020.

Warehouses discovered housing COVID-19 palliatives so far include: Lagos, Osun, Kwara, Ondo, Plateau, Kaduna, Cross River, Edo, Delta, Anambra, Yobe and Taraba.

CACOVID had earlier announced on the 6th of August 2020, a nationwide distribution of 23 billion Naira food palliatives to cover 1.7 million households amounting to about 10 million people across the 774 local governments in the country, including the FCT. Handover of food items to Lagos state for example, worth 1.4 billion Naira, was recorded on the 22nd of September, 2020 and was meant for 107,564 households in the state.

State governments have given various reasons for the delay in distribution of palliatives to indigenes.

The Lagos state government has stated that the looted warehouse in Maza maza was not state-owned and that the state government had commenced rebagging of food items to account for beneficiaries and that distribution was halted due to the protests. The Kwara state government has stated that the looted palliatives at the cargo terminal in Ilorin were meant for special vulnerable groups and they had been generating names for orderly distribution.

The Osun state government has stated that they were awaiting a formal flag-off for distribution by the CACOVID office in Abuja.

### CORONAVIRUS UPDATE IN NIGERIA AT AS TODAY - 25/10/2020

**61,992**

CONFIRMED CASES

**1,130**

DEATHS

**57,465**

RECOVERED

**612,154**

TESTED