

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.

NAFDAC approves AstraZeneca vaccine

The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control, has approved the Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine for use in Nigeria. Here are some points to note about the vaccine:

- The Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, codenamed AZD1222, is the second COVID-19 vaccine to receive authorisation from the WHO, after the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine
- Nigeria has been allocated 16 million doses of the vaccine under the COVAX facility, while more doses are being expected under the African Union arrangement
- Two versions of the vaccine have been approved by the WHO for emergency use and they are being produced by the Serum Institute of India and by SKBio in South Korea
- The NAFDAC Director General, Dr Mojisola Adeyeye has confirmed that the vaccine is effective against the B.1.1.7 COVID-19 variant first discovered in the UK which has been detected in Nigeria
- A study of 2000 people indicated that the vaccine is less effective against the 501Y.V2 variant, which is prevalent in South Africa. NAFDAC has stated that this variant has not been reported in Nigeria

COVID-19 vaccines compared

S/N	COMPANY	TYPE	DOSES	STORAGE
1	Oxford Uni-Astrazeneca	Viral vector (genetically modified virus)	2	2 to 8°C
2	Moderna	RNA (part of virus genetic code)	2	-25 to -15°C (7 months)
3	Phizer-BioNTech	RNA	2	-80 to -60°C (6 months)
4	Gamaleya (Sputnik V)	Viral vector	2	-18.5°C (liquid form) 2 to 8°C (dry form)
5	Sinovac (CoronaVac)	Inactivated virus (weakened virus)	2	2 to 8°C
6	Novavax	Protein-based	2	2 to 8°C
7	Janssen	Viral vector	2	2 to 8°C

Fee Paying Laboratories in Nigeria

The NCDC has approved 38 private laboratories for COVID-19 testing in Nigeria. They include:

S/N	LABORATORY	STATE	PHONE NUMBER	ADDRESS
1	Accunalysis Medical Diagnostics	Anambra	0816 765 8136	Anglecan Junction, Oba new Road before St. Mary Angelican Church Nnewi
2	Edo Specialist Hospital	Edo	0901 829 6396	Plot 1. Sapele Road Benin City, Edo State
3	Lily Clinics Hospital	Edo	No Number Provided	No. 16 Edo-Osagie Street, GRA, Benin City
4	Safety Molecular Pathology laboratory, Enugu	Enugu	0705 834 8968	44 Rangers Avenue, Independence Layout, Enugu
5	E - Health Africa (EHA) Laboratory	FCT	080-342 254 6427	Asba & Dantata Street, off Life Camp roundabout (Jabi), Abuja, Nigeria
6	Medicaid Laboratory	FCT	0703 004 4300	Plot 665 T.O.S. Benson Crescent, Utako, Abuja
7	Cedarcrest Hospital Molecular Laboratory	FCT	0908 700 5760 0809 515 7906 0809 515 5552	No. 2 Sam Mbakwe Street, Apo. Abuja
8	DNA Labs FCT	FCT	0803 788 0765 0806 909 0924	91 4th Avenue, Gwarinpa, Abuja
9	54 Gene	FCT	0704 092 1277	Maitama Gardens, 3645 Ibrahim Babangida Way Maitama
10	E-clinic Diagnostics	FCT	0701 000 2008 0905 731 4851 0908 750 3497	3, Agadez Street, Off Aminu Kano Cres, Wuse 2 900288, Abuja
11	Clina Lancet Laboratory	FCT	0906 244 6907 0704 653 3040 0703 850 2683 0704 618 1630 0704 554 1687 0704 618 1361	1 Yedseram Close, Off Ibrahim Babangida Way, Opp. Farmers Market, Maitama
12	Everight Diagnostics	FCT	N/A	2 Fez Street off Kumasi Crescent, Wuse 2

S/N	LABORATORY	STATE	PHONE NUMBER	ADDRESS
13	Arab Labs	Anambra	0805 696 6127 0903 304 4118	Exhibition pavilion Hebert Macauley Way, Garki, Abuja, FCT
14	Everight Diagnostics	Imo	0816 881 2732	17 Bank/Assumpta Road, Owerri, IMO
15	DNALabs Kaduna	Kaduna	0703 564 3663 0806 044 8905 info@dnalabs.com.ng	Kinkino road, off sultan road, Unguwar Rimi, Kaduna
16	E - Health Africa (EHA) Laboratory, Kano	Kano	0800-342 254 6427	33 Lamido Crescent Nassarawa GRA, Kano, Nigeria 4-6 Independence Road, Kano
17	Sahel Laboratory, Katsina	Katsina	+234 913 687 7380 +234 806 590 0072 +234 803 113 5265 sahelconsult@yahoo.com	Sahel Medicare Laboratory Katsina
18	Clina Lancet	Lagos	01 7001310 – 339 0704 618 1360-1 0704 653 3040	3 Babatunde Jose Street, off Adetokunbo Ademola Street, Lagos
19	O2 Medical Services	Lagos	0811 904 5519	Plot 134A, Festac Access, #7 General Hospital Rd, Gbagada, Lagos
20	Biologix Support Services	Lagos	0806 958 3073 0808 484 6534	56C Olorunlogbon street, Anthony Village, Lagos
21	Afriglobal Medicare, Lagos	Lagos	0813 984 1355 01 629 1000 0800 080 8080	8 Mobolaji Bank-Anthony Way, Ikeja
22	Clinix Healthcare	Lagos	0706 618 6358	12, Alhaji Adejumo Avenue, off Gbagada-Oshodi expressway, Ikeja Lagos
23	Zaine Lab	Lagos	0904 640 0000 0806 134 8550 0806 134 8431	6b Bendel Close, Off Bishop Aboyade Cole Street, Victoria Island
24	Vcare Diagnostics Limited	Lagos	0708 063 1400	100 Adetokunbo Ademola Street, Victoria Island, Lagos
25	Medburry	Lagos	0908 899 9900 0902 733 1921	7B Admiralty Road, off Admiralty Way, Lekki Phase I, Lagos
26	54 Gene	Lagos	0906 281 5677	3 Simeon Akinolu street by Techno oil, Oniru, Victoria Island. 17 Billings Way, Oregun Ikeja
27	Union Diagnostics	Lagos	0802 335 6891 info@uniondiagnostic.com.ng	43, Tejuosho street, Surulere.
28	Wellmed healthcare limited.	Lagos	0802 930 7274 0805 672 31601 contact@wellmedhealthcareltd.com	Km 52 Lekki Epe expressway beside Ajiwe police station Ajah.
29	Acouns Laboratory.	Lagos	0905 300 2875 acounslab@gmail.com	Km 12, lekki epe expressway, Ikota, Lagos.
30	Arrive Alive Diagnostics & Imaging Services Laboratory.	Lagos	0809 183 8811 0809 183 8855 info@arrivealiveltd.com	35 Cole Street, Off Mabo Street, Ojuelegba, Surulere, Lagos
31	Medilag Consult Laboratories	Lagos	0806 611 7865 medilagconsultlabs@gmail.com	113 Tafawa Balewa Plaza , College of medicine, Idi Araba.
32	The Specialist Laboratories	Lagos	0808 469 417 thespecialistlaboratories@gmail.com	6, Sodipo Street off Fashoro Surulere Lagos.
33	LASUCOM Molecular Biology Laboratory	Lagos	0809 663 3500 molecularlaboratory@lasucom.edu.ng	MRC Building, 1-5 Oba Akinjobi Way, Ikeja GRA, Lagos.

S/N	LABORATORY	STATE	PHONE NUMBER	ADDRESS
34	Harley and Rainbow Specialized Laboratories	Lagos	0708 209 1185 0708 201 4235 customer care@harleyandrainbowspecializedlaboratory.com	#72, Adeniyi Jones, Opposite Lagoon Hospital, Ikeja.
35	Lifecenter Medical Diagnostics	Lagos	0909 505 9596 0802 087 3597 0818 322 2220 hello@lifecentermedicals.com	13, Kenneth Agbakuru street Opposite Motherless Babies Lekki Phase 1 Finnih Medical Centre 42, Oduduwa Crescent, Ikeja GRA Ikeja
36	Mecure healthcare limited	Lagos	0700 063 2873	Debo industries compound, plot 6, block H, Oshodi industrial scheme, Lagos, Nigeria
37	Synlab	Lagos	0700 0026 7662, 0703 178 7238, 0700 7284 2273, Whatsapp- 0810 460 7653	Plot 9a/b Egbeyemi street, off Coker road, ilupeju, Lagos
38	Medbury Services Limited	Rivers	Email - riverscovid19testing@medburymedicals.com.ng	No. 1, Car Link Road, GRA Phase 3, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria

RUMOURS



Ivermectin can be used to cure COVID-19

COVID-19 vaccines can make me test positive for coronavirus

Older adults cannot have the vaccine

The COVID-19 vaccine will affect my fertility

The vaccine will cause autism

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FACTS

Merck, the original manufacturer of Ivermectin, has said that there is no meaningful evidence that the drug has any treatment effect in COVID-19 patients.

No approved COVID-19 vaccine can cause you to test positive on viral tests. However, if your body develops an immune response due to the vaccine, you could test positive for COVID-19 antibodies.

Currently, in most countries where officials are rolling out the vaccine, older adults are being prioritized, as they are most at risk of severe illness.

There is currently no evidence that antibodies formed from COVID-19 vaccination cause any problems with pregnancy.

There is no scientific evidence that any vaccines shot or its ingredients cause or worsen autism.