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.

**Nigeria vaccinates over 1 million people**

The National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) has announced that as of Wednesday, 14th April, 1,043,737 eligible Nigerians have been vaccinated in 36 states and the FCT. Nigeria started vaccination on the 5th of March after receiving 3.94 million doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine through COVAX. To achieve herd immunity against COVID-19, Nigeria had set an ambitious goal of vaccinating 40 per cent of its over 200 million population before the end of 2021, and 70 per cent by the end of 2022.

### Highest Vaccinated States

- **Lagos**: 192,061
- **Kano**: 56,942
- **Kaduna**: 55,604
- **Ogun**: 52,513
- **FCT**: 44,098

### Lowest Vaccinated States

- **Abia**: 6,081
- **Kogi**: 5,568
The chairman of the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 announced on the 23rd of March that Nigerian scientists have developed two vaccines against COVID-19 and that clinical trials for the vaccines are underway.

**How to register for COVID-19 vaccination**

Registration requires a device with a working internet connection. Nigerians who want to register can visit the NPHCDA’s registration portal at www.nphcda.gov.ng

**What do you need to fill the form?**

To fill the vaccination form, you need your basic information: full name, phone number, email address, date of birth, sex, a form of ID, a residential address including states, LGA of residence, and ward of residence.

You are also meant to select your preferred vaccination date and time slot and upload a photograph. The form asks if you work in the health sector and if you have any medical conditions or allergies.

Finally, you are required to type in a code and this completes your registration process.

You should receive a message that your registration has been completed. You will also be issued a vaccination ID.

**Who is eligible to receive the vaccine?**

Healthcare workers top the list of people who will receive the vaccine first. Away from them, the NPHCDA said it will prioritise “frontline workers – the military, police, oil and gas workers, customs workers, and strategic leaders.”

Nigeria will be the third African country to receive a vaccine under the COVAX scheme, after Ghana and Ivory Coast. It should be noted that the vaccine will be administered without charges and the country is expected to receive a total of 16million free doses from COVAX in the coming months.
**RUMOURS VS FACTS**

**The vaccine gives you COVID-19**

- **FACTS**: There is no virus in the COVID-19 vaccines. The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines give you a piece of the genetic material or RNA. Your cells turn it into a protein of the coronavirus. From there, your body recognizes it is unfamiliar or “not human,” and then creates an antibody against it. The RNA eventually goes away, but the immune response remains.

**If you've already had COVID-19, you don't need to get vaccinated**

- **FACTS**: There is not enough information currently available to say if or for how long people are protected from getting COVID-19 after they have had it (natural immunity). Early evidence suggests natural immunity from COVID-19 may not last very long, but more studies are needed to better understand this.

**Taking Ibuprofen can cause COVID-19 to get worse**

- **FACTS**: There is no evidence that Ibuprofen or other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs can make COVID-19 cases more severe. You should consult your doctor before changing medications.

**Blood pressure medicines make the COVID-19 infection more severe**

- **FACTS**: Due so far, the data supporting the connection between blood pressure medications and COVID-19 are scant. Studies are underway and are not conclusive.

**Only older people get COVID-19**

- **FACTS**: All ages can get the Covid-19 virus, but it is only people with underlying conditions and who are older too are prone to get the more severe form of the virus.

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**CORONAVIRUS UPDATE IN NIGERIA AT AS TODAY - 04/05/2021**

- **CONFIRMED CASES**: 165,199
- **DEATHS**: 2,063
- **RECOVERED**: 155,371
- **TESTED**: 1,939,165