

Know COVID-19 Nigeria Report: Update on the Coronavirus Pandemic (20 March 2020 – 12 April 2020)

Date: 13 April 2020

Background

[Know COVID-19 Nigeria](#) was established to ensure the provision of adequate, relevant, reliable and relatable information, debunk fake news and providing safety, health and precautionary tips that could help people stay safe, informed and protected. In achieving this, we are engaging young professionals in various fields like media, medicine, graphics designing, web development, public relations, data analytics, research and monitoring and evaluation, etcetera, who are volunteering their time and expertise, thereby, relieving them of boredom from staying at home as a result of the lockdown in the country.

Beyond tackling fake news, we are gathering data on cases, perceptions, emotions and other relevant variables on the Coronavirus. We engage in Matrix mapping of confirmed cases to build clusters of susceptible individuals and assist in flattening the curve. We are also building a database of information that could help researchers and scholars during and after this outbreak. We share information through relatable graphics with pictorial designs that attract attention rather than boring long texts that get people bored. This makes us unique and attracts us to people that might not read news and articles from relevant sources like the World Health Organisation and the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control.

Timeline of activities		
S/N	Activities	Date
1.	Ideation and inauguration of working team	20 March 2020
2.	Launch and inaugural post	21 March 2020
3.	Call for volunteers	23 March 2020
4.	Selection of Volunteers	24 March 2020
5.	Inauguration/ Grouping of volunteers	24 March 2020
6.	Launching of Website	06 April 2020
7.	Launching of Fundraising campaign	07 April 2020
8.	Reported anomaly in NCDC database	11 April 2020

Strategy

We work with a team of over 100 volunteers who are specialists (Lecturers, students, grad-students, mid-level practitioners) in different fields like epidemiology, public health, public relations, communications and medicine, monitoring, research and evaluation, graphics design and web development, among others. They have been helping us to achieve our objectives. Volunteers work remotely and on a shift basis.

We have a 24-hour working team monitoring situations and leveraging on our social media platforms to reach a larger audience.

We have produced a series of articles, research and media updates. We have also featured on several news platforms and blogs like The Guardian Newspaper, Tekedia Blog, Factual Times and Insider Nigeria, etcetera.

An Infodemic: Numerous Fake News

The outbreak of COVID-19 in Nigeria came with a surge of fake news, myths, disinformation and misinformation. We have debunked and red-flagged over 30 fake news in form of audio, videos, pictures and written posts (See Appendix- Fake News). Fighting fake news goes beyond putting red flags, it is about ensuring the right information gets to the people. As much as there are fake reports on social media, we are doubling our efforts to ensure that there is twice as much quality, relevant and reliable information.

Uncorrelated data

We rely on official reports of the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) in documenting related data about COVID-19 Cases in Nigeria. We noticed some uncorrelated data in NCDC Database and alerted the centre but no action was taken. For example, the Governor of Oyo State, Mr Seyi Makinde, announced that he has tested negative to the virus on 06 April 2020. However, the NCDC database recorded zero (0) recovered case in Oyo state as of 07 April 2020. NCDC acknowledged our email but did not reveal any intention of taking action. We are, however, watching the situation closely.

Government is Confident and Optimistic

As Nigeria goes on lockdown, we analysed speeches from different leaders (the President, Governor of Lagos State, etc) to examine the tone of their expression. We observed confidence and a strong commitment to countering the epidemic.

Citizens are worried but supportive

Know COVID-19 Nigeria examined comments and reactions of citizens on directives by government. Expressions show increased worry, most especially in hunger, loss of jobs and idleness (that could result from the lockdown). However, citizens' expression also shown support for the directives.

Cases in Nigeria are moving at a geometric rate.

We observed the week-in, week-out cases in Nigeria. Starting from week four since the outbreak, we observed that cases are doubling the total number of cases confirmed in previous weeks. The partial lockdown in many parts of the country, most especially Lagos, since week five must have been effective, as we noticed a much conservative increase compared to previous weeks.

Nigerians are bored but exciting

Despite the boredom (many people expressed boredom on social media) created as a result of the lockdown, Nigerians are finding fun on social media. We noticed a rise in the use of TikTok, different challenges were trending on Twitter, Instagram, TikTok and Whatsapp. Some of these challenges include #BopDaddyChallenge, #DontRushChallenge, #SomethingNewChallenge, #MostLikelyTo, Housewife-Girlfriend- Side Chick Challenge. Know COVID-19 is also keeping youths busy; we currently have over 100 local and international Volunteers. Our initiative is an opportunity for many of them to serve their community, build their resume, gain work experience and leverage on more opportunities during the lockdown.

Global Metrics: Africa has no Sophisticated Public Health System but containment measures are working

Like the Ebola Pandemic, COVID-19 met Africa, and the world unprepared. Though lessons learnt from the Ebola pandemic assisted many countries, like Nigeria to swing into swift action, despite the unavailability of stuff, staff, space and systems in Africa, the impact of COVID-19 is still mild. Africa currently has total deaths of 717 victims; saddening but optimistic. The world is losing grip, Italy and the United States have been the worst hit. On 11 April 2020, the USA recorded over 2000 deaths in a single day.

Message of Hope

Statistical trends of the pandemic give more hope than despair. Globally, the rate of recovery is high. In Nigeria, one (1) out of Thirty-Two (32) people that contracted the virus dies. Also, global report about the pandemic revealed that one (1) out of 163 people that contracted the virus dies. Nigeria is beginning to record more recoveries. Currently, 70 people have recovered from the virus and some of the recovered victims are giving hope to others.

****Please get more details from our infographics in the appendix****

This report was produced by the Know COVID-19 Nigeria Team, led by Abdulhakeem Abdulkareem, Co-founder of Know COVID-19 Nigeria.

For more information, reach us at:

hello@knowcovid19.ng

[@knowcovid19](https://twitter.com/knowcovid19) on Twitter

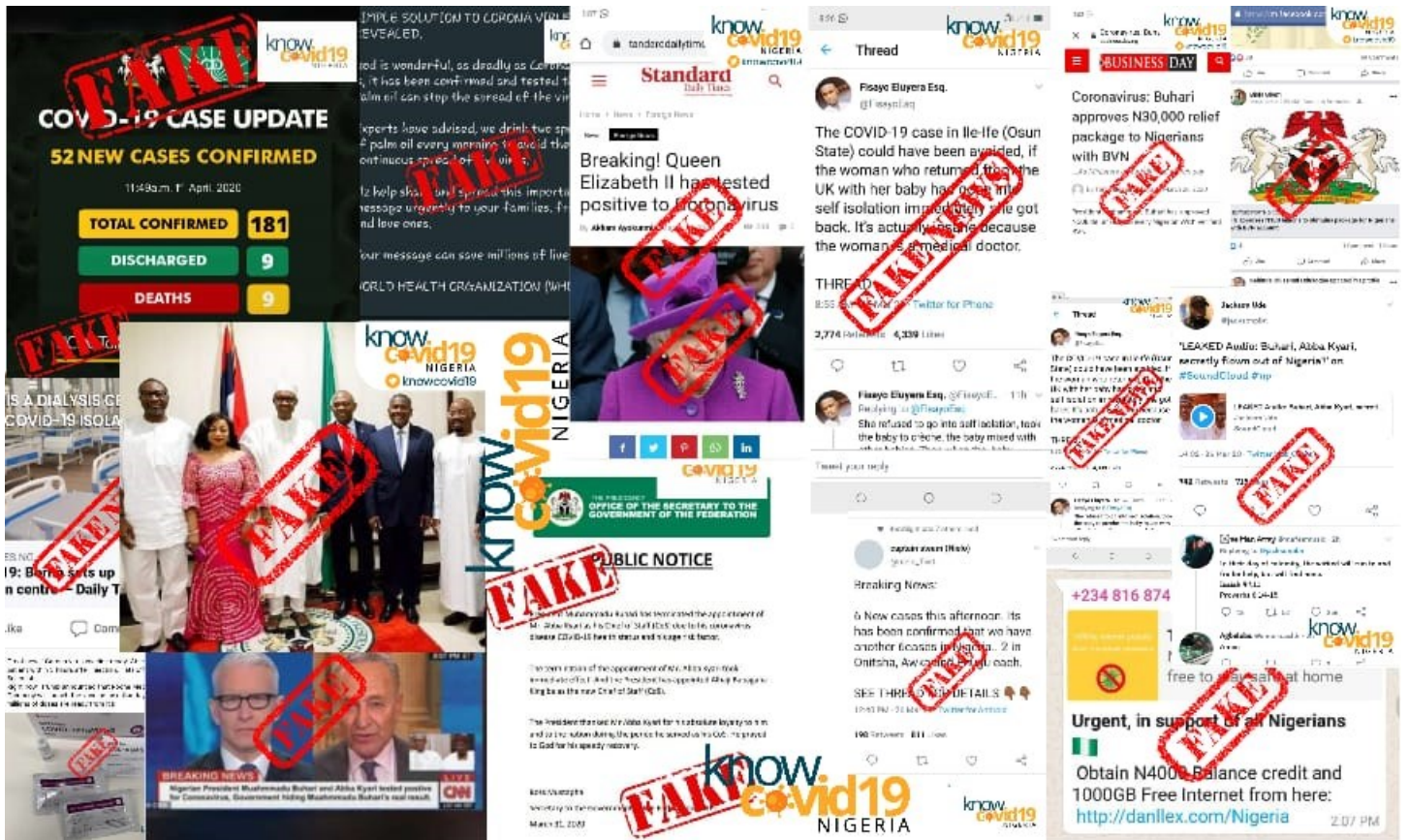
[@Knowcovid19](https://www.instagram.com/knowcovid19) on Instagram

www.knowcovid19.ng

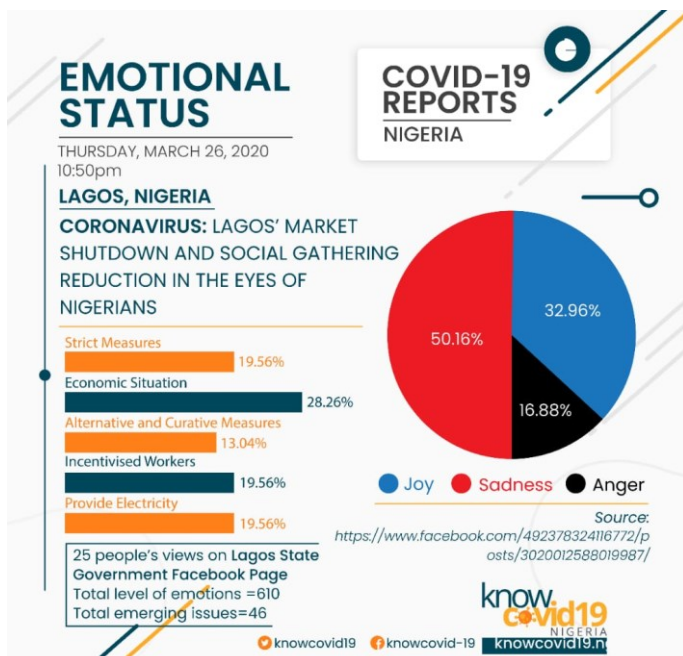
Call us: +234919140872

Appendix

Fake News



Series of Fake news reports and posts have continued to spread since the outbreak



COVID-19 STATISTICS

FACT CHECK:

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2020
10:00pm



Source: www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/

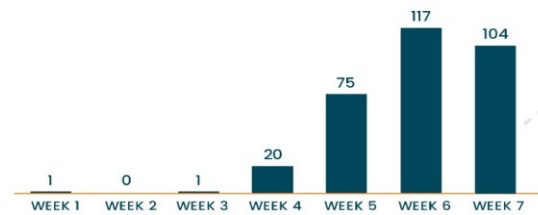
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TIMELINE OF CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK IN NIGERIA

AS AT APRIL 11, 2020
11:00pm

318 CONFIRMED CASES



Source: www.ncdc.gov.ng

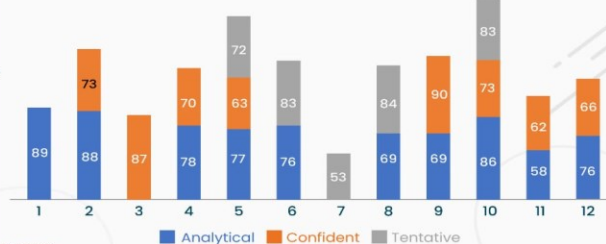
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LANGUAGE TONE

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2020
11:00am

KWARA

GOVERNOR ABDULRAZAK ABDULRAHMAN PRESS BRIEFING ON COVID 19 CASE

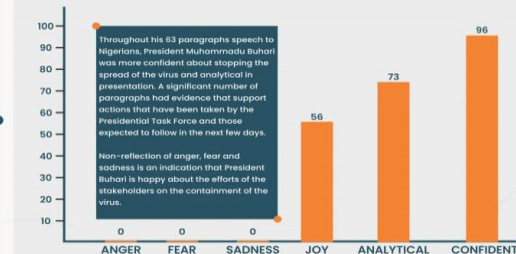


Source: Kwara State Government, 2020

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BUHARI'S SPEECH ON COVID-19: EMOTIONAL STATUS AND LANGUAGE TONE



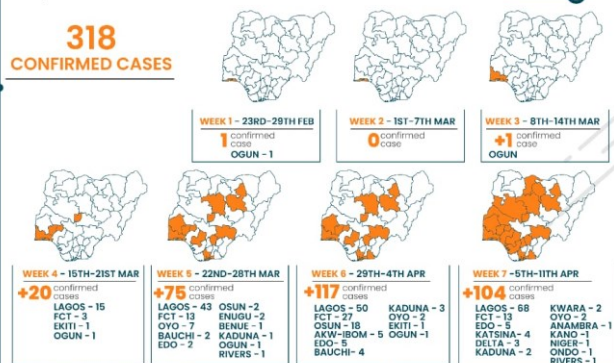
Source: The Presidency, 2020; Knowcovid-19 Nigeria, 2020

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COVID-19 LAGOS SITUATION REPORT

- All confirmed cases are clinically stable. 70% of the cases are males while 30% are females with age band most affected 30 to 39 years (active and mobile age group).
- 16% of the case are foreign nationals while 84% are Nigerians.
- Numbers of imported cases initially stood at 82% of total confirmed cases. 16% of the cases are contacted from imported cases, while the origin of 2% of the cases couldn't be ascertained.
- Top 5 LGA's with Passengers of interest (POIs) are: Eti-Osa, Ikeja, Alimosho, Kosofe and Oshodi/Isolo.
- Covid-19 surveillance in Lagos so far targeted 2645 POIs, with 2293 under follow up, while 352 POIs have exited follow-up (outside incubation period).
- Activation of ICS 4 weeks, it would appear that Lagos has FARED BETTER in managing the crisis, COMPARED with the situation in ITALY, IRAN and SPAIN that got into exponential phase after 3-4 weeks.
- We are on the look out for local transmission as imported cases will drop significantly because of the closure of the airports.
- However, current trend indicates that COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION is NOT on the RISE yet.
- There are 3 testing sites in Lagos: IDH-Yaba, LUTH/Official and NIMR.
- The Response team at LASG COVID19 remain committed to aggressive containment measures against the spread of the virus. Every citizen is therefore enjoined to continue to observe social distancing.

Source: Lagos State Government, 2020

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