



PGF Weekly Briefing to Governors on Covid-19 Responses

First Edition

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Status Report of Covid-19 Cases in Nigeria

As at Sunday, April 5, 2020, the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) reported 214 cases.

Status	Count
Total Confirmed Cases	224
Discharge	27
Death	5

State by State Breakdown

State	Cases	State	Cases
Abuja	45	Abia	0
Adamawa	0	Akwa Ibom	5
Anambra	0	Bauchi	6
Bayelsa	0	Benue	1
Borno	0	Cross River	0
Delta	0	Ebonyi	0
Enugu	2	Edo	9
Ekiti	2	Gombe	0
Imo	0	Jigawa	0
Kaduna	4	Kano	0
Katsina	0	Kebbi	0
Kogi	0	Kwara	0
Lagos	115	Nasarawa	0
Niger	0	Ogun	4
Ondo	1	Osun	20
Oyo	9	Plateau	0
Rivers	1	Sokoto	0
Taraba	0	Yobe	0
Zamfara	0		

The NCDC also reported that it has traced more than 70% of the 6700 contacts and tested over 2000.

Introduction

The COVID-19 outbreak continues to spread across the globe as well as on the African continent. As at April 1, 2020, a cumulative total of 3,766 confirmed COVID-19 cases with 95 deaths (case fatality ratio 2.5%) have been reported across 42 affected countries in Africa according to World Health Organisation.

The most affected countries in are South Africa (1,353 cases), Algeria (584 cases), Burkina Faso (261 cases), Senegal (175 cases), Cote d'Ivoire (169 cases) and Ghana (152). Together, these countries account for 72% of the cases in the continent.

Nigeria's reported cases have also continued to be on the increase like those of other countries but with the proactive responses from the APC led Federal and States governments, the fatality rate has been kept low. From all indications, there are greater prospects of prevention and management in the weeks ahead.

This PGF WEEKLY BRIEF ON COVID-19 is an effort by the PGF Secretariat to provide weekly briefings to Progressive Governors, which is a collation from our daily briefings and updates on the corona virus global pandemic in Nigeria. Part of the objective is to allow our states have shared knowledge and factual information necessary for proper management of the pandemic.

Although the **First Edition** focuses only on APC states and the Federal Government, from the **Second Edition**, attention will also be given to non-APC states and the responses being put in place. It is expected that information emerging from both Federal and states will assist APC states to expand the scope of response initiatives and accordingly strengthen national capacity to contain the spread of COVID-19 in the country.

One of our major findings in this week's edition is the imperative of responding proactively to misleading information and fake news flying all over the place around COVID-19 and other matters related to it in a way that is posing greater threat to the public than posed by the pandemic itself. And this is a responsibility to be taken very seriously by information managers at both the Federal and state levels.

One of the shortcomings of this **First Edition** is that the Secretariat had to rely more on information from open media. While sharing the daily briefs to the Secretaries to Government, Chief of Staffs and Commissioners of Information, request was made for feedback so as to ensure objective and thorough documentation of initiatives. Very few states have responded. More effort will be placed in the coming week to get feedback and ensure that all APC states' responses to Covid-19 are well captured in the weekly briefings.

Measures taken by States with Cases of Covid-19

The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and the APC States that are affected are Abuja (FCT), Edo, Ekiti, Kaduna, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo and Osun and they have so far taken the following measures:

Abuja (FCT) – 45 Cases

- 1000 capacity space for isolation and treatment of mild to moderate cases between University of Abuja Teaching Hospital, National Stadium, Training Facility at Idu amongst others.
- Lockdown imposed by the government.
- Distribution of palliatives to indigent households.
- Molecular Testing Labs.
- Banning of all public gatherings.

Edo – 9 Cases

- 280-bed isolation Centre, 28 ventilators, 10 Intensive Care Units (ICUs) and plans are underway to set up 100 screening centres across the state to contain the spread of COVID19.
- Training of health workers on the management of infectious diseases has begun.
- Revenue collection from transporters has been suspended for the month of April.
- Ban on gatherings of more than 20 people put in place and all markets are to remain closed, except food, pharmaceutical stores and eateries.
- On April 2, 2020, donation of relief materials to Internally Displaced Camps in the State begun, starting with the IDP camp at Ovia North-East Local Government Area.

Ekiti – 2 Cases

- The Government of Ekiti State continues to sensitise its people on the safety guidelines during this period.
- Banning of Public gathering.
- Lockdown by the State Government.
- Arrest and sentencing of erring residences.
- Fumigation and decontamination of Public places
- Commencement of teaching for pupils of primary school on radio.
- Reactivation of State food Bank to provide food items for the poor and vulnerable families in the local communities;

- Setting up two isolation centres in Ado-Ekiti
- Special Task Team for door-to-door sensitisation.
- Sets up Fund Mobilisation Committee for COVID-19

Kaduna – 4 Cases

- Lockdown imposed by the State Government.
- Banning of all public gatherings.
- Closure of all schools
- Distribution of palliatives to the poorest communities in the State.
- To set isolation centre for asymptomatic cases.
- Continues public awareness and sensitisation
- Started up process of getting a Test Centre

Lagos – 115 Cases

- Championing the war against COVID-19
- Set up different Task teams on COVID-19
- Disinfection of the streets in the State.
- Distribution of palliatives to the poorest communities in the State.
- Creation of isolation centres in Yaba General hospital and a 110 beds facility in Mobolaji Johnson Arena.
- Lockdown imposed by the Federal Government.
- Banning of all public gatherings.
- Continues public awareness and sensitisation,

Ogun – 4 Cases

- Number of confirmed cases in Ogun State remains 4.
- Banning of all public gatherings across the State.
- Implements total lockdown imposed by the Federal Government.
- Distribution of #OgunCOVID19 relief materials targeting 500,000 in all the 20 Local Government Areas has commenced.
- Closure of boundaries with other states
- Providing various food items to 100,000 households in the first instance and targeting 500,000 households in all.
- Telemedicine to provide access to healthcare and health information during the lockdown.
- Decontamination of Public spaces such as markets, parks,
- Isolation and treatment facilities that have 300 bed spaces, acquired 12 ventilators.

- Creation of 3 isolation centres at Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital, one at Ikenne and one at Iberekodu in Abeokuta.

Ondo – 1 Case

- Closure of boundaries with other states and restriction of large gatherings.
- Governor set up palliatives committee to service the people as part of relief from lockdown and other control measures to curb spread of disease.
- Governor also constituted a response Fund Committee to cushion effects of the pandemic on the State and to mobilize resources needed.
- First confirmed case on 3rd April 2020. Case is adequately isolated and is getting treatment at the isolation center in the State.
- Commencement of teaching for pupils of primary school on radio.

Osun – 20 Cases

- Creation of 3 isolation centres at the State Specialist Hospital, Asubiaro, Osogbo.
- Provision of a testing centre at the African Centre in Genomics Disease at Redeemers University, Ede.
- Banning of public gatherings across the State.
- Sets up Fund Mobilisation Committee for COVID-19
- Arrests offenders who violates government orders
- Test passengers at entry points to Osun State;

Readiness of APC States with no Cases of Covid-19

The following APC States have no cases of Covid-19: Borno, Gombe, Jigawa, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa, Niger, Plateau and Yobe. They have however taken the following preventive measures:

Borno

- Sets up State Task force on COVID-19
- Orders social and hygiene measures across the state,
- Public sensitization on daily basis.
- Orders stay and work at home orders on Civil servants below Grade level 13;
- Ban on all passengers and vehicular movement into the state, except vehicles conveying food items, medical supplies, humanitarian goods and fuel supplies;

- Screens every person entering the state at the border roads;
- Suspends Biometric and data capturing exercise for Local Government staff for two weeks;
- Closure of all schools in the states.
- People are advised to avoid unnecessary social gatherings.
- Borno SEIC Suspends LG Election.

Gombe

- State Taskforce committee on Covid-19
- So far spent N524 million for activities aimed at curtailing the corona virus in the State.
- N28 million and N296 million were released to the State Taskforce committee on Covid-19 for procurement of necessities in curtailing the virus as well as N200 million to Local Government authorities in the state for the same purpose.

Imo

- The State has ordered complete lockdown of the state as part of measures to prevent the dreaded Coronavirus (COVID-19) disease from entering the state.
- Ordered the immediate closure of all primary, secondary and tertiary institutions in the state. Announced a plan to establish a specialist hospital for the disease.
- Opened six different isolation centres in the State.
- Plan to close down all markets and borders in the state.
- Nine-man Committee set up by the State Government under the Chairmanship of Professor Maurice Iwu.

Jigawa

- Sets up Special Task force for COVID-19
- Fumigates markets, public places
- Ordered the immediate closure of secondary and primary schools as part of precautionary measures to stop the spread of the virus.
- Converted Yakubu Gowon NYSC orientation camp and a three-Star Hotel into isolation centers for Covid-19 suspected.
- Shut down civil service and all public gatherings for the period of fourteen days to prevent the spread of coronavirus in the state cases.

- Ordered for the immediate closing of its boundaries with other neighbouring states as part of measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in the state.
- Suspended weekly markets in the state as part of *measures to curb* the spread of Coronavirus

Kano

- Upgrade of the Yargaya Health Dedication Centre
- Existence of State Task Force on COVID-19 under the chairmanship of Deputy Governor, Dr Nasiru Yusuf Gawuna with a Co-Chairman in the person of Prof. Abdul-Razaq Garba Habib, Head of Infectious Disease Unit, from Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Bayero University, Kano.
- Ordered the closure of all routes linking the state with other parts of the country from Friday 27th March, by 12 midnight as a proactive measure to curtail the possible spread of coronavirus in the state.
- Fund raising committee receives N353.9m in Kano
- Sets up 600-Bed Isolation Center at the Sanni Abacha Stadium sponsored by Aliko Dangote
- Schools have been closed.
- Distribution of food items
- Opens on-line registration for Volunteer medical and health workers
- Fumigation of streets in the capital

Katsina

- Sets up Task force
- Closure of all land borders with neighbouring states.
- Stay at home order to civil servants to stay at home.
- Closure of all schools
- Ban on all public gatherings above 50 people.
- Arrests offenders who violates government orders
- Public enlightenment continues on daily basis;

Kebbi

- Sets up State Emergency preparedness and response committee;
- Sets up 20-Bed isolation Center at Kebbi Medical Center, Kalgo
- Staff of Federal Medical Center, Birnin Kebbi to join in management of the Isolation Center.
- Another State Intensive care center with ventilators at Sir Yahaha Memorial Hospital, Birnin Kebbi.

- Public enlightenment continues on daily basis;
- Training for medical personnel ongoing at the National Hospital, Abuja
- Orders closure of all schools;
- Entry point screening of people into the state
- Commissioners in *Kebbi State* contribute half of their monthly salaries to the *fight* against *COVID-19* pandemic
- Closure of border compliance;
- Restricts movement into and out of *Kebbi state*;

Kogi

- Schools have been shut down and gathering of people in their numbers has been banned and this also includes marketplaces.
- A containment centre to control the spread of the virus in the State has been set up.
- The State has ordered the closure of public and private schools in the state indefinitely as measures in preventing the spread of coronavirus disease in the state.
- The state government has set up an isolation centre in Lokoja, the state capital and an Emergency Response Team has been constituted.
- Kogi state has ordered the state civil servants from Grade levels 1- 13 to stay off their offices as part of *measures to prevent the spread of the virus*.
- *Kogi state* government has banned public gathering of 30 persons and above in a bid to *prevent* the spread of coronavirus in the state.
- Closed all land and water entry points into the state.
- Existence a Task Force Committee on Covid 19 under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Governor of the state.

Kwara

- Ordered the immediate closure of all public and private schools in the state, as part of efforts to curb the spread of the Coronavirus disease.
- Banned all gatherings of more than 25 people and issued a stay-at-home order for civil servants excluding health workers and first responders, effective from March 23.
- Sets up COVID-19 Technical Committee
- Sets up a 20-bed high-quality isolation centre at Sobi Specialist Hospital and another 12-bed intensive care unit at the General Hospital, Ilorin.
- Training of medical personnel from both public and private sectors;
- Screens Travellers at Borders, Airports
- Approved the fumigation of our markets and other specific *places*.

Nasarawa

- Locked down Karu for 24hours in the first instance
- The government of Nasarawa state commenced social measures to prevent COOVID-19.
- Closes down all public schools.
- Sets up Response team.
- Public sensitization continues on daily basis.
- Sets up 5 new isolation Centres in Medical Centre Mararaba Gurku, Karu Local Government, General hospital, Obi Local Government, General hospital, Keana Local Government, General hospital Nasarawa Local Government and General hospital, Akwanga Local Government.
- Arrests offenders who violates government orders
- Test passengers at moto parks

Niger

- Inauguration of Task Force on COVID-19
- Establishment of COVID-19 Emergency Centres across the state in Minna, Bida, Kontagora, Suleja, and New Bussa and the State Rapid Response Team to respond to any emergency.
- Establishment Isolation Centre in the General Hospital Minna, as well as Isolation Rooms in all the General Hospitals in Niger State.
- Appoints Disease Surveillance and Notification Officers across all the Local Government Areas for notification and 24/7 updates for public to call in case of any suspected outbreak of #COVID19.
- Public Sensitization across the State
- Ban on Public gatherings.
- Mr. Governor signed the Niger State Prevention, Containment and Emergency Order 2020.
- Procurement of Automatic Oxygen Ventilator Machines, Oxygen Concentrators among other medical kits in readiness for any COVID-19 case.
- Kicked off the reintroduction of monthly sanitation exercise in the state,

Plateau

- Sets up Covid-19 Emergency Task Force Response Committee,
- Sets up 3 Isolation centers in the three facilities at the Bingham University Teaching Hospital Jos, Plateau State Specialist Hospital, and the Jos University Teaching Hospital.

- Took 43 suspected residents into isolation as a precautionary measure.
- All Border Entry Points into Plateau State closed.
- Closes down all public schools.
- Closes markets.
- Ban on public gatherings
- Public sensitization continues on daily basis.
- Setting up of Situation Room to monitor, evaluate and reporting;

Yobe

- Sets up State Task force on COVID-19
- Sets up Isolation Center with Ventilators.
- Closure of the state's borders with neighboring states.
- Orders social and hygiene measures across the state,
- Public sensitization.

Federal Government Interventions

Following the confirmation of the COVID-19 case in Nigeria on February 25, 2020, the Federal Government of Nigeria, through the Federal Ministry of Health has put in place measures to ensure that the outbreak in Nigeria is controlled and contained as quickly as possible. It has also introduced healthcare measures, border security, fiscal and monetary policies to support the control of the COVID-19 global pandemic. Some of the measures as a follow:

- Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) activated National Emergency Operations Centre.
- Provision of an initial intervention fund of Fifteen Billion Naira (N15b).
- Presidential Task Force (PTF) inaugurated to develop a workable National Response Strategy.
- Recruitment of hundreds adhoc staff to man all call centers and support the tracing and testing efforts.
- All State Governments nominated Doctors and Nurses to be trained by the NCDC and Lagos State Government on tactical and operational response to the virus in case it spreads to other states.
- Interstate and intercity movements restricted to prevent further spread.
- Cessation of all movements in Lagos, the FCT and Ogun for an initial period of 14 days with effect from 11pm on Monday, 30th March 2020. To identify, trace and isolate all individuals that have come into contact with confirmed cases.
- Suspension of movements of all passenger aircraft, both commercial and private jets.

- 3-month repayment moratorium for all TraderMoni, MarketMoni and FarmerMoni loans implemented.
- Moratorium given to all Federal Government funded loans issued by the Bank of Industry, Bank of Agriculture and the Nigeria Export Import Bank.
- The Development Financial Institutions engaged international and multilateral development partners and negotiate concessions to ease the pains of the borrowers.
- The conditional cash transfers for the next two months paid to the most vulnerable in the society.
- All Federal Government Stadia, Pilgrims camps and other facilities converted to isolation centers and makeshift hospitals.
- NCDC launched a WhatsApp APP, to provide a central source of accurate, verified and current information on COVID-19 in Nigeria.
- Disbursement of N20,000 to indigent Nigerians, payment to cover months of March to June.
- Suspended the visa issuance on arrival for travelers from COVID-19 frontline countries.
- Escalated the Nation's capacity for testing and detection through the acquisition of more testing kits and establishment of additional test centers.
- Acquisition of personnel protection equipment (PPE) for different categories of frontline personnel
- Deepening awareness creation and public sensitisation.
- Mobilized experts and trained personnel whether in service or retired.
- Introduced social distancing policies and banning mass gathering of over fifty (50) persons.
- Closure of all Federal schools and tertiary institutions.
- The total ban on international travels at all the country airports and continues closure of all land borders and seaports;
- Covid-19 Regulations, 2020 signed into law.
- Credit relief of \$136.6M to businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic.
- Donation of Preventive Items to the Disabled in FCT
- 70,000 grains as palliatives, food markets open from 10am to 2pm daily.
- Regulations given for Essential Services / Business Owners during Lockdown.
- Fumigation service at stadia and Bus stops in Lagos state.
- Expansion of isolation centres across Nigeria.
- Introduced fiscal measures to minimise the negative impact of this pandemic on the livelihood of millions of Nigerians.
- Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, worked with the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), to ensure that production of essential items such as food, medical and pharmaceutical products continues.
- Released 10 Billion Naira Grant to Lagos State

- All NCDC staff and experts on training or international assignments were returned immediately.
- Senate donates 50% of their salaries from March while House of Reps donate their salaries of 2 months.
- Foreign Affairs release on the guidelines for evacuation of Nigerians abroad, and the arrangement of quarantining them upon their return.
- 3000 samples have been tested so far and work in progress to scale up the capacity in a targeted approach.

Economic Challenges due to Covid-19

- Crude oil price slumps by 60% in the First Quarter of 2020, the worst situation since 2009 Economic Meltdown.
- OPEC countries like Angola, Ghana, Gabon and Nigeria face 20% borrowing cost.
- Payroll problem and rising unemployment rate are certain, jobs may come under threat,
- Nigeria experiences low production in all sectors due to lockdown as there has been drastic decrease in export.
- Agric production going low due to low access to inputs and movement restrictions;
- All projections for Q2 of 2020 must be reviewed government and the private sector;

Meanwhile, FG and Governors are considering more economic interventions to cushion the effects in both the short and long run.

Conclusion

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to ravage the world, it is hoped that the current measures put in place by our governments would check the spread and ensure that it is controlled in Nigeria soonest. So far, Nigeria is doing well compared to other countries in Africa and across the world.

Even so, the increasing number of cases in Nigeria in the last few weeks is of grave concern considering that the public health system is weak and fragile. The high prevalence of malnutrition and poverty can increase the severity of COVID-19 and represent an additional strain on the health system in the next few weeks. This is particular so if the people do not cooperate with government in the fight against COVID-19.

Specifically, Governors may wish to take note of the following and where possible initiate responses accordingly:

- Delayed reporting and incomplete data, or lack of data sharing hinders the generation of timely, accurate and informative epidemiological analyses, which should guide strategic response. And conversely, fake news and misinformation pitches the people against government, and this can lead to greater crisis. Local Governments, Communities, Traditional and Religious Leaders should join in creating awareness in their localities and take ownership of sensitizing their people.
- It is also essential that governments at all levels continue to promote strict adherence to proven public health measures such as social distancing, good personal hygiene practices and cough etiquette guided by the WHO standards.
- In compliance with the President's directives on eliminating inconsistencies in policy guidelines between the FGN and States, a unified and strategic approach to issuance of guidelines using the Strategic Communication formula of putting forward the purpose of the message before the message itself should be deployed.
- Health information management and data sharing needs to be strengthened in the FCT and all affected states and in states with no reported confirmed cases, preparedness and readiness activities should be scaled up and closely monitored.

Finally, Nigeria has to plug into the global search for cure and be ready to buy into whatever vaccine is discovered promptly.