



POLICY BRIEF

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TOWARDS CONTROL OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE OUTBREAK IN NIGERIA: TRAJECTORY OF NCDC'S RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

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Background

On the 28th of February 2020, the Federal Ministry of Health announced the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Nigeria. This made Nigeria the 3rd country in Africa with an imported case of the disease asides Egypt and Algeria.

Prior to COVID-19 in Nigeria, the multi-sectoral Coronavirus Preparedness Group was constituted with the responsibility of reviewing the situation globally, assessing the risk of spread and improving on Nigeria's level of preparedness based on new findings and insights. On the 28th of February 2020, the group was escalated to the national Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) for coordinating COVID-19 response activities. The EOC has developed and continued to review an incident action plan which is being implemented across the following pillars:

Coordination

The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) activated a national Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) at the highest level. This multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral EOC has continued to lead the national response for COVID-19. Till date, the NCDC has supported all states in Nigeria to set up Public Health Emergency Operations Centres (PHEOC), and these have contributed to coordination of response efforts at



operations.

It is worthy of note to state that despite the drop in all epidemiological parameters for COVID-19, the NCDC



has continued to provide needed support to the states. These include continuous provision of logistics support to the sub-national level e.g., medical and laboratory commodities, Infection Education and Communication (IEC) materials, etc. As part of her role in ensuring national health security, the NCDC in conjunction with the Presidential Steering Committee on COVID-19 response and other relevant stakeholders, has supported development of different policies as the outbreak evolved (see links n page 3).

the state levels.

The national EOC also supported deployment of rapid response teams to all 36 states and FCT to support sub-national response. This to a very large extent bridged some of the gaps in frontline responders and ultimately contributed to an effective response. The deployments were the highest and longest in the history of NCDC

Epidemiology and Surveillance

The NCDC has continued to intensify surveillance both within the communities and at points of entry (Lagos, Kano, Port Harcourt and FCT). A third second case definition is currently being used and has been broadly shared with Port Health Officials and State epidemiologists for determining a suspect case of the disease. NCDC digital tool for surveillance, SORMAS, is being used to manage contact tracing and related activities to quickly control the spread of the disease.



Laboratory

The overall response efforts were initially challenged by limited number of laboratories as there were only four laboratories with the capacity to test for COVID-19 in Nigeria; The NCDC National Reference Laboratory; Lagos University Teaching Hospital; Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital; and African Centre for Genomics of Infectious Diseases in Ede, Osun State. The NCDC has



now established a network of molecular testing laboratories across the 36 states and the FCT. This has significantly improved access to testing and reduced turn-around-time.



Infection Prevention and Control

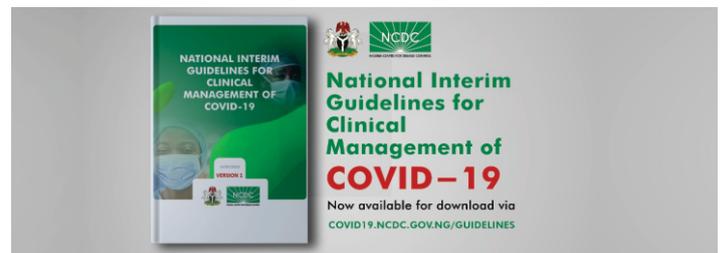
Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) guidelines and Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) have been disseminated to treatment centres, health facilities,



and health workers across the country. The NCDC has also facilitated IPC trainings for healthcare workers across all levels of health care system. We now have network of IPC focal persons across Nigeria aside other initiatives.

Case Management

The first national guideline for COVID-19 management was developed by NCDC. This role has now been transferred to the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) and NCDC recently supported the development of the third COVID-19 case management guidelines. This is being finalised and will be distributed to all designated treatment centres to manage laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19.



Risk Communication

Communications have intensified on protective measures against COVID-19. Based on new knowledge on the disease and epi-dynamics of the disease, the different public health advisories, updated FAQs, and other IEC materials have been published and widely disseminated.



Logistics

The NCDC has continued to pool and mobilise resources particularly response commodities e.g. personal protective equipment, medical and laboratory consumables, thermometers, hand sanitisers, etc. to the affected states.



Link to NCDC COVID-19 policies and publications

- To control spread of COVID-19 in Nigeria, NCDC has recently issued ["COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Amidst Increasing Case Numbers"](#)
- Presidential Steering Committee on COVID-19 updated the Implementation Guidelines for Easing COVID-19 Restrictions: http://covid19.ncdc.gov.ng/media/files/F5_-_IMPLEMENTATION_GUIDELINES_Ako.pdf
- NCDC revised and updated the [Nigeria International Travel Portal \(NITP\)](#)
- Presidential Steering Committee on COVID-19 updated the international travel protocol: http://covid19.ncdc.gov.ng/media/files/Revised_Travel_protocol_revised_2nd_April_2022.pdf
- Celebrate Responsibly Campaign: [NCDC Intensifies COVID-19 Awareness ahead of the Yuletide](#)
- NCDC issued a press release on the detection of the [first confirmed cases of omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2 in Nigeria](#)
- NCDC revised and updated the [Nigeria International Travel Portal \(NITP\)](#)
- Presidential Steering Committee on COVID-19 released a press statement on [Revised International Travel Protocol into Nigeria](#)
- NCDC published [COVID-19 safety guidelines for Conferences and Events in Nigeria](#)
- NCDC issued a press release on the detection of the [first confirmed case of delta variant of SARS-CoV-2 in Nigeria](#)
- Presidential Steering Committee on COVID-19 reviewed and published [Travel advisory for passengers arriving Nigeria from Brazil, India and Turkey to include South Africa](#)
- Presidential Steering Committee on COVID-19 published [Travel advisory for passengers arriving Nigeria from Brazil, India and Turkey](#)
- Presidential Steering Committee on COVID-19 published [Implementation guidelines for phased restriction of movement](#)
- NCDC published [One year of COVID-19 response in Nigeria](#)
- NCDC and NIMR publish [findings of COVID-19 household seroprevalence surveys in four states of Nigeria](#)
- NCDC published a [Statement on variants of SARS-CoV-2 in Nigeria](#)
- The Federal Ministry of Education (FME) and partners, PTF and NCDC have developed: [Guidance for integrated safe school re-opening 26th January 2021](#)
- COVID-19 Health Protection Regulation signed by President Muhammadu Buhari on 26th January 2021: [Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Health Protection Regulations 2021](#)
- NCDC published an updated [community case definitions for coronavirus disease 2019](#)
- The Federal Ministry of Health and NCDC published ["COVID-19 Patients handbook for home-based care in Nigeria](#)
- NCDC published an updated [case definitions for coronavirus disease](#)
- NCDC published [Guidance for the use of approved COVID-19 antigen-based rapid diagnostic tests in Nigeria](#)
- Update of [travel protocols for all travellers into Nigeria from UK and South Africa](#)
- NCDC recently launched the [Celebrate Responsibly campaign in response to the increase in cases of coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) and poor adherence to public health and social measures across the country: –Celebrate Responsibly and Save Lives New Awareness Campaign for the Yuletide Season](#)
- Ahead of the Christmas and end of year festivity, NCDC published the [End-of-Year Travel Advisory on COVID-19](#)
- NCDC recently launched the [COVID-19 blog for telling the stories of Nigeria's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.](#)
- NCDC published guidelines on 2020 National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Orientation Camp activities in conjunction with PTF and NYSC: [Guidelines on 2020 National Youth Service Corps \(NYSC\) Orientation Camp activities](#)
- NCDC published guidance on the use of antigen RDTs: [Guidance on the use of Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Kits for diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2 infection in Nigeria](#)
- NCDC published guidance on safe school re-opening: [Public Health guidance for Safe School re-opening in Nigeria](#)
- NCDC published second interim guidance – Infection Prevention and Control: [Recommendations during health care provision for suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19](#)
- NCDC recently published the first edition of a quick reference guide on setting up sample collection centre - [A step by step guide on setting up a sample collection centre](#)
- NCDC has launched an online course on [Infection, Prevention and Control \(IPC\) for COVID-19 NCDC eLearning platform](#)
- Ahead of forthcoming elections in the country, NCDC has issued [Guidelines for Conducting Elections During the COVID-19 Outbreak in Nigeria.](#)
- To protect our elders, and those with pre-existing medical conditions, NCDC has issued an [Advisory for Vulnerable Groups.](#)
- NCDC has released [guidelines on the re-opening of places for worship.](#)
- NCDC has released [Strategies to Improve Surveillance for COVID-19 Guidance for States](#)
- The Nigeria Police Force has released COVID-19 operational guidelines for the [Police and other Law Enforcement Agencies in Nigeria](#)
- Guidelines have been issued for the [safe transportation of remains of persons suspected or confirmed to have died of COVID-19](#)
- Information on diagnostics of the COVID-19 virus can be found in our [detailed FAQ document.](#)
- To increase our testing capacity, NCDC has issued guidelines for the [integration of private labs.](#)
- Guidelines for [businesses and employers have been updated.](#)
- NCDC has updated its [case definition , community case definition and case management guide.](#)
- NCDC releases periodic [public health advisories to Nigerians on the COVID-19 disease.](#)
- To adhere to post-lockdown measures, NCDC has released an [advisory on the use of face masks, as well as information on the Use of Cloth face masks and how to make your cloth face masks.](#)
- NCDC has released guidelines for the [management of pregnant women and nursing mothers during the pandemic.](#)
- To address burials of loved ones who die from COVID-19, guidelines have been issued to advise on the [safe burials](#)
- For health centres managing cases, the following documents have been released- a guideline for the [RATIONAL USE OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT IN THE CARE OF COVID-19 CASES.](#)
- As part of plans to increase the testing capacity of the country, the NCDC published a [National Strategy to Scale Up Access to Coronavirus Disease Testing in Nigeria document.](#)
- The Presidential Task Force has published policies and announcements on COVID-19 [available on the website of the Presidency – including presidential addresses, task force updates and information on livelihood and economic support.](#)