



NIGERIA AGRICULTURAL QUARANTINE SERVICE  
**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL**  
MEDIA, COMMUNICATIONS AND STRATEGIES UNIT

**PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**RED ALERT: OUTBREAK OF THE DEADLY 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS**

China is grappling with an outbreak of the deadly 2019 novel coronavirus (2019 n-CoV). As of today, the virus has killed over 100 people and affected about a thousand more in central Hubei Province. A couple of days ago, Vietnam and Singapore were added to the nations recording confirmed cases, joining Thailand, the United States of America, Taiwan, South Korea and Japan.

2. The World Health Organization has described this outbreak as an emergency for China but stopped short of declaring it a public health emergency of global concern because the death toll had yet to meet the threshold.

3. Coronaviruses (CoV) are zoonotic, meaning that they are cross-transmittable between human beings and animals. According to WHO, signs of infection include fever, cough, shortness of breath. In more severe cases, it can lead to pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and death. Hence, CoV represent an equal opportunity danger to human life and the agricultural sector. A single case of introduction will have potentially broad and prolific ramifications.

4. Bearing in mind the zoonotic nature of 2019 n-CoV, the Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service is collaborating with the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) to ensure that there is no gap or breach on the veterinary quarantine front

at the airports. FAAN has issued a travel advisory, admonishing passengers to submit themselves to standard quarantine formalities.

5. As the single point of command for all agricultural quarantine activities in Nigeria, NAQS is obligated to buffer the nation from the potential introduction of this high-risk virus. The stakes are high. Therefore, officers are on their professional guard.

6. Consequently, all NAQS officers stationed at all ports of entry have heightened their alertness to make certain that procedural quarantine inspection is performed stringently, diligently and rigorously. There can be no exception or exemption.

7. The general public is therefore advised to report any case related to the above to quarantine posts in their locality or the agriculture department in their local government council. Alternatively, they may reach the Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service directly via email: [contact@naqs.gov.ng](mailto:contact@naqs.gov.ng) or call +234 809 133 3385, +234 807 777 8943.

8. The Director General is positive that the ever-stable sense of duty of NAQS officers will remain an impenetrable bulwark against any threat to the nation's agricultural economy, safety and the environment.



**Dr. Gozie Nwodo**

*Head,*

*Media, Communications and Strategies*

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