

# TIMELINE OF COVID-19 TILL DATE

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## December 2019

- The novel coronavirus was identified after several outbreaks of cases in Wuhan, China<sup>1</sup>.

January 2020<sup>2</sup>

- China CDC (Centre for Disease Control) confirms that COVID-19 is a Class B infectious disease.
- WHO declares the outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).
- China discloses plan to admit WHO team of experts to assist with research.

## February 2020<sup>3</sup>

- U.S CDC predicts COVID-19 would soon become a pandemic.
- COVID-19 death toll exceeds that of Severe Acute Respiratory syndrome (SARS) from seventeen years ago.
- Global air travel is restricted.

## March 2020<sup>4</sup>

- WHO declares the coronavirus outbreak as a pandemic.
- Findings confirm the virus was not created in a lab, suggests bats as the likely source.
- U.S becomes the new epicenter of the pandemic after number of cases exceed 100,000.
- U.S Foods and Drugs administration authorizes use of hydroxychloroquine as treatment for hospitalized patients.

## April 2020<sup>2</sup>

- COVID-19 cases exceed 1.5 million; death toll passes 100,000.
- The Centers for Disease Control start conducting tests to check for coronavirus immunity in the blood.
- Hydroxychloroquine is declared ineffective as a treatment against COVID-19.

## May 2020

- Number of global cases of COVID-19 reaches 4 million<sup>5</sup>.

## June 2020

- Results from a clinical trial confirm that Dexamethasone is lifesaving for critically ill COVID-19 patients<sup>6</sup>.

## July 2020<sup>2</sup>

- India overtakes Russia as the country with the

third highest number of cases.

- An Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPR) is created to assess response to the pandemic.
- Global coronavirus cases exceed 15 million.
- Clinical trials for a COVID-19 vaccine created by Moderna commences in the U.S.

## August 2020<sup>3</sup>

- Researchers at Yale School of Public Health develop an alternative, less invasive test involving saliva samples instead of nasal swabs.
- Findings prove that Remdesivir, an antiviral drug, has minimal effect on hospitalized COVID-19 patients.
- First known case of re-infection is reported in the U.S.

## September 2020<sup>7</sup>

- The Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPR) held its first meeting.
- WHO synergized with partners to ensure 120 million affordable COVID-19 rapid tests are available for low and middle-income countries.

## October 2020

- 20 African countries receives new WHO-approved COVID-19 rapid diagnostic tests<sup>8</sup>.
- WHO reports three million new cases of COVID-19 in one week<sup>2</sup>.

## November 2020<sup>4</sup>

- AstraZeneca announces its vaccine is 62-90 percent effective.
- Moderna reports its vaccine is 95 percent effective.
- Findings prove that Pfizer's vaccine is 95 percent effective, as opposed to Pfizer's earlier claim of 90 percent.

## December 2020

- WHO declares the new COVID-19 variant circling the UK is not out of control<sup>9</sup>.
- Novavax commences Phase 3 trial of its COVID-19 vaccine, NVX-CoV23733.

## January 2021<sup>9</sup>

- Global coronavirus infections exceed 101 million with more than two million deaths and 66,387,000 recov-

eries.

- U.S, India and Brazil remain the three most affected countries worldwide.

### February 2021<sup>9</sup>

- Israel has vaccinated the highest percentage of its population (22.03%).
- Covax, a global program with the aim of ensuring equal access to COVID-19, has allotted millions of Astra-Zeneca doses to be delivered to African countries by the end of the month. As the most populous country in Africa, Nigeria stands to receive 16 million doses; while Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of Congo will receive 9 and 7 million doses respectively.

### REFERENCES

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## 2020 AND THE PANDEMIC, A PERSONAL MEMOIR

**Omolewa Adedipe - Clinical III**

**T**he novel coronavirus was identified after several Nobody knew just how much COVID would change our lives, and although it looks like the worst is over and the world is beginning to recover, I believe we all are yet to realize just how much our lives have changed.

My awareness of COVID as a threat was insidious, it started initially as the international news making rounds on Twitter, a faraway reality that wasn't particularly urgent in any of our minds. I remember sneezing at clinic and one of our consultants asking me if I had been to China lately, everyone laughed. At the time, the southwest was more concerned about the Lassa fever epidemic, COVID wasn't an issue -or so we thought.

The first interruption to our academic year came at the end of February 2020 when consultants went on a strike action to protest the NUC's ridiculous requirements for PhDs before they could teach medical students. This seemed reasonable enough as the strike was for a good cause and a

2-week break from school was a very welcome idea. Little did I or anyone else for that matter, know that we would be home for an entire year.

While discussing one of the poems in his collection, Clinical Blues, at a book reading several years ago, Dr. Dami Ajayi spoke of the depression you experience towards the end of med school, the tiredness from a long journey and the uncertainty about the future that plagues your mind. This was, and still very much is, my situation.

Med school wasn't a conscious choice, but it wasn't forced on me either. I was an inquisitive and impressionable girl, and too restless to decide what I wanted to do, many things caught my fancy for varying lengths of time.

When my parents suggested medicine, I didn't object, and since everybody told me I was intelligent enough to study medicine and almost all the awesome adults in my life went to OAU, I let them sign me up for medicine at OAU. 2020 was my 8th year in med school, and I was still as indifferent -maybe even more so- about medicine as I was when I