COVID 19 VACCINE UPDATES IN NIGERIA

HIGHLIGHTS

- 13 new confirmed cases have been recorded in Nigeria between 31st December 2022 to 6th January 2023.
- These new cases reported were from Lagos (12) and Edo (1).
- 5,708,974 samples tested, 266,463 confirmed cases, 259,850 cases discharged, 3,453 active cases and 3,155 deaths recorded in 36 states and the FCT as of today.
- Statistics from NPHCDA as of January 25, 2023 shows 65,679,094 total clients fully vaccinated and 11,780,959 partially vaccinated across the 36 states including the FCT.
- Kaduna has recorded the highest number of daily vaccinations in 2023 with 20,673 target population and Imo as the second highest with 15,078.
- Kano (15.5 million vaccinations) and Kaduna (9.9 million vaccinations) are leading with the highest total number of vaccinations since the introduction of COVID-19 vaccines in March 2021.
- 2.6 million Vaccinations have been recorded so far in 2023, with newly vaccinated individuals accounting for 53%.

THE NEW COVID 19 OMICRON VARIANT

A new COVID-19 variant is spreading rapidly throughout the world called Variant XBB1.5 in the US and UK with BF.7 in China which remains the most transmissible of the Omicron variants.

WHAT DO WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT XBB1.5/ BF.7?

It is the daughter of a mixture of different viruses that have been circulating in humans in the last few months, it is called a recombinant and it’s had another couple of mutations added on top of it.

Though the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has said that the COVID-19 Omicron sub-lineages partly responsible for the current increase in COVID-19 cases in China, US and UK have not yet been detected in the country.

Regardless of COVID-19 variants in different parts of the world, severe disease, admissions, and deaths affects the unvaccinated and those with established risk factors i.e. older people, persons with underlying health condition etc. The most important action for Nigerians to take is to get vaccinated against COVID-19 as the vaccine is the most important intervention for preventing severe disease, and death. Nigeria is also set to reactivate isolation centres over the recent outbreak of COVID-19.
THE NEED FOR COMMUNITY VACCINATION AND LOCAL PRODUCTION OF VACCINE IN NIGERIA

Vaccinations throughout a person’s life, have proven to be one of the most important public health tools in history- saving lives and simultaneously bringing significant social and economic benefits. Vaccination protects the vaccinated persons and those around them who are vulnerable to the disease, reducing the risk of diseases spreading among family members, colleagues, friends, and other people in the community.

Local production of vaccine is a way to boost resilience for the future and provide capacity for Nigeria to provide for herself against COVID-19 or any other disease that may arise in the future. We cannot continue to rely on repeated generosity of the international community, scaled-up local manufacturing capacity and strengthened supply chains are required. But the questions that need to be answered are:

- Is the government ready to fund this intervention?
- Will the international community be interested in purchasing vaccines produced locally and not consider it as inferior?

PARTICIPATION AND KEY PRIORITIES OF CSOS AND COMMUNITIES IN PANDEMIC CONSULTATIONS

CSOs and communities must prioritise questions related to key issues on the COVID 19 pandemic on operationalizing and achieving vaccine equity by:

- Building on the successful examples of other pandemic and global health mechanisms by incorporating civil society representation into its planning, implementation and governance.

- Addressing existing inequalities to prevent future pandemics by prioritising rights based, person- centered approaches, focusing on equity and equitable access, technology co-creation and transfer.

- Understanding that the critical role of community-led responses are recognized as core components of an effective global pandemic preparedness and response framework.

- Enable financing in resilient and sustainable public health systems, including through investments in community systems and community engagement.

- Addressing rather than exacerbating the systemic challenges.

- Maximizing the production of safe and effective vaccines and other products by suspending relevant intellectual property restrictions during pandemic outbreaks so that any nation can produce or buy sufficient and affordable doses of vaccines, treatments and tests.

- Ensuring COVID-19 vaccines, treatments and tests are sold to governments and institutions at a price as close to the true cost as possible or provided free of charge to everyone, everywhere, and allocated according to need.

References


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