| 1. | **FG releases study outcome on the effect of Covid Vaccine**  **October 15, 2021397**  A study by National Primary health care development agency (NPHCDA) has shown that Covid Vaccine neither induces the Virus nor lead to death.  The study was done in Six States of the Federation (Anambra, Borno, Edo, Katsina, Lagos and Plateau).  With the overall aim of monitoring the safety of COVID-19 vaccines in enrolled adult individuals 18 years and above who have taken the authorized COVID-19 vaccine in Nigeria.  Led by Prof Akin Osibogun, a Professor of Community Medicine at the Lagos University Teaching Hospital, the study sought to estimate the incidence of adverse events following immunization with different brands of the COVID-19 vaccine in all enrolled immunized subjects.  Briefing newsmen at the weekly COVID 19 vaccination update in Abuja, the Executive Director of the NPHCDA, Dr Faisal Shuiab said out of 1,284 enrolled in the study, 52.6% reported non-serious adverse effects while only 1 subject or 0.08% reported serious adverse effect in the first week of the vaccination.  ‘’None of the enrolled subjects who reported adverse effects required hospitalization. The commonest reported symptoms among vaccines were tenderness at injection site 20.9% and fever 20.3%. Most of the reported symptoms (55.5%) occurred within the first 3 days of vaccination while 40.2% of the vaccines with reported symptoms could not recall time of onset of symptoms’’. He said.  Dr Shuiab stated that the study revealed more adverse effects on the older age groups with 61.5% of those above 60years reporting symptoms compared to 34.9% of those aged 18-24 years, while those with existing comorbidities also had serious side effects from the vaccines.  According to him ‘’The difference for age was statistically significant (p=0.003). Those with pre-existing morbidities were also observed to have higher rates of reported symptoms (AEFIs) than those without pre-existing morbidities even though the observed difference was not statistically significant (p=0.551). The findings suggest that from the perspective of public communication, the vaccine is quite safe and the reported symptoms are mild and to be expected in the first three days following vaccination. Older vaccinees are to be particularly counselled as to what to expect and not to panic as the symptoms are mild and time limited.  Dr Faisal also stated the planned decentralisation of Covid vaccination to private health facilities and setting up of mass vaccination points across the country in line with the NPHCDA commitment to ramp up COVID-19 vaccine uptake by Nigerians.  The objective of this strategy is to vaccinate a high volume of individuals through large sites such as Federal institutions (universities, polytechnics), shopping malls, religious centers, sporting events, conference centers, and markets etc. This will require strong collaboration between NPHCDA, State Governments, religious bodies, school authorities and governing bodies of malls and large sporting events. As we expand the vaccination sites, we encourage all eligible Nigerians to avail themselves for vaccination. I am also glad to inform you that we have commenced the process of decentralizing COVID-19 vaccination in Nigeria, to include private health care providers  While explaining further the modalities for the decentralization of Covid vaccination, the Executive Director explained that it will not affect the Federal Government’s free vaccination policy and the free issuance of vaccination cards after vaccination.  He said that measures are being put in place for full supervision and monitoring of the private health facilities to be involved in Covid vaccination.  According to Dr Shuiab erring health facilities will be sanctioned, including blacklisted, while soliciting the help of Nigerians to ensure the decentralization does not compromise the current standard of COVID-19 vaccination in the country.  Dr Shuiab equally spoke on the decisions taken by the Presidential Steering Committee (PSC) to protect the most vulnerable people, and also ensure that the work place is safe for all citizens.  On availability of the COVID 19 vaccines, Dr Shuiab said Nigeria will have adequate vaccines to cover more than 50% of eligible populations by the end of the first quarter of next year.  We have already done a comprehensive analysis and forecast of COVID-19 vaccines. We have enough vaccines to cover more than this population of Federal Government employees and we are expecting even much more. Based on delivery forecasts from the COVAX facility and the African Union, In order words, please do not worry about the availability of vaccines, we have the supply chain figured out.  We are cognizant of the fact that some unscrupulous elements would want to get the card and not the jab.  Dr Shuiab urged all Nigerians, to continue to wear masks and observe other preventive protocols to enable the country curtail the pandemic.  The UNICEF representative Dr Opiyo Nixons said this week’s data shows a drastic improvement from last week’s Covid vaccination in the County.  Dr Opiyo Nixons urged Nigerians to be committed in the fight against the pandemic through getting vaccinated, wearing of face masks, and observance of all non-pharmaceutical protocols,  According to NPHCDA, as of the 14th of October 2021, a total of 5,246,523 eligible populations have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine in Nigeria, which represents 4.7% of the target population.  While eligible persons fully vaccinated in Nigeria till date is 2,546,094 which represents 2.3% of the target population.  Maureen Ike |
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| 2. | **Nigeria to get $400m World Bank financing for COVID vaccine**  **October 3, 2021**  Nigeria on Friday got approval for a $400 million in World Bank financing to procure and deploy COVID-19 vaccinations, the bank said in a statement.  According to Reuters, the World Bank board of directors signed off on the financing, provided via the International Development Association, which it said would enable Africa’s most populous nation to purchase COVID-19 vaccines for 40 million people, some 18% of its population, and support vaccine deployment to 110 million people.  In a statement, the bank said the money would ensure that the government can vaccinate 51% of its population within two years and “avoid the dreadful consequences of another lockdown that left in its wake an economic toll the country is still grappling with.”  The government last month said that around 20% of workers in Nigeria had lost their jobs as a result of COVID-19.  So far, 5 million vaccine doses have been administered to the 200 million people of Nigeria As of October 1, Nigeria had recorded 205,779 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 2,721 deaths from the virus. |
| 3 | **FG to impose covid vaccines on Nigerians**  **September 21, 2021794**  Chairman, Presidential Steering Committee (PSC) on Covid-19, Mr Boss Mustapha says the federal government will soon commence imposing the COVID vaccine mandate on Nigerians.  Mr Boss Mustapha who is also the Secretary to the Government of the Federation said this at the opening ceremony of the “Nigeria @ 60” photo exhibition at the National Press Centre, Radio House Garki, Abuja.  “Very soon, we will be imposing the COVID vaccine mandate in government establishments, functions and also on civil servants and public Offices”.  He said while advising Nigerians to take the COVID vaccination.  Barely a week ago, the Executive Director, National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), Dr Faisal Shuaib said the federal government had extended the vaccination exercise to worship centres across the country.  As of Monday, September 20, 2021, a total of 202,191 confirmed cases of the coronavirus was recorded across Nigeria with 2,661 deaths and 2,997,060 samples tested. |
| 4 | **NAWOJ urges pregnant women to take COVID-19 vaccine**  **November 16, 2021228**  The Nigeria Association of Women Journalists, NAWOJ Kano state chapter has appealed to pregnant mothers to take Covid-19 vaccine against the dreaded pandemic.  This was contained in a communiqué at a sensitization programme on Covid-19 held in collaboration with UNICEF in Kano.  According to the communiqué, “Pregnant women are not at risk when taking COVID-19 vaccines.  It notes that the vaccines are 100% effective.  The communique noted that vaccination remained the best way to protect the younger generations from COVID-19 |
| 5 | **PMB makes case for global access to COVID19 vaccine**  **November 11, 2021281**  President Muhammadu Buhari has urged world leaders and global health institutions to implement a policy that allows for access to COVID19 vaccine.  He warned that excluding countries in terms of reach would jeopardize the entire efforts to ensure safety.  President Buhari said in a keynote address at the Paris Peace Forum (PPF) that export restrictions that encourage unnecessary vaccine stockpiling must be abolished while applauding industrialized countries’ efforts to share vaccines.  The President stated that pledges should be fulfilled in a timely manner, praising countries like France for donating vaccines to developing countries.  Lessons Learned from the Covid-19 Pandemic  President Buhari also focused on “Lessons Learned from the Covid-19 Pandemic: The Importance of Coordination Among All Actors for Vaccine Delivery.  He stated that distribution coordination must be complete, and the goal must be the same: to give vaccines all over the world saying the current level of vaccination delivery leaves much to be desired.  He emphasized that there are instances where certain countries are providing booster third doses to their citizens while millions throughout the world, particularly in underdeveloped countries, have yet to receive a single shot.  The planned COVAX deliveries to Africa had been cut by 25% due to supply shortages and export bans, a major setback for Africa, where vaccine deliveries are expected to increase from around 20 million doses per month to an average of 150 million doses per month if the target of fully vaccinating 70% of its population by September 2022 is to be met, he said.  The Nigerian president thanked Mr Pascal Lamy, President of the Paris Peace Forum, for inviting him to share his opinions on the significance of collaboration among all actors in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. |
| 6 | **COVID-19 Vaccine: Lagos introduces N6,000 charge for private facilities**  **October 29, 2021391**  Lagos state government says residents who wish to take the Covid-19 vaccine at a private facility will have to pay N6,000 as an administrative charge.  The vaccine remains free at public facilities.  The Lagos government made this known during a press briefing signed by Gboyega Akosile, a spokesman to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu.  The statement noted that the decision to extend the vaccination drive to private facilities was part of efforts to encourage more people to receive the jab.  “Sanwo-Olu re-emphasised that the vaccines being administered are safe and remain free of charge in public health facilities,” the statement said.  “The Governor, however, said an administrative charge of N6,000 would be paid by individuals who wish to get the vaccines at approved private facilities.”  The Governor warned that a fourth wave of the virus was possible as travellers from across the world enter the city for the December festivities, prompting the state government to launch a mass vaccination campaign. |
| 7 | **Don’t force workers to take COVID19 vaccine- NLC**  **October 25, 2021363**  President of the NLC, Mr Ayuba Wabba  The Nigerian Labour Congress has urged the Federal Government against forcing workers to take the COVID-19 vaccination.  The President of the NLC, Mr Ayuba Wabba gave the warning during a briefing on COVID-19 Vaccination Advisory for Federal Civil Servants in Abuja.  The NLC President said that the Federal Government should employ the use of persuasion rather than force.  He noted that the COVID-19 vaccine has given all of us a better chance of fighting the virus and staying alive.  Wabba urged workers to take advantage of the COVID-19 vaccines and keep themselves, their families and their colleagues at work safe and free from the morbid threats of the corona pandemic.  NLC President explained that the tool of persuasion and conviction should be used rather than force to get workers and the general populace to take the vaccine,  The NLC President also called the government and other employers of Labour to make special arrangements for workers to access the vaccine at workplaces.  Secretary to the Governments Boss Mustapha-led Presidential Steering Committee on COVID-19 on October 13, 2021, had announced that Federal Government workers without proof of COVID-19 vaccination or result of test done within 72 hours will be denied access to their offices starting from December 1, 2021. |
| 8 | **COVID-19: NPHCDA urges Nigerians to get vaccinated**  **January 27, 2022297**  Director, Disease Control and Immunization at the National Primary Health Care Development Agency, Dr Bassey Okposen during a Radio Nigeria programme ‘Have Your Say,’ in Abuja. Photo: Abdullahi Lamino  The National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) has urged Nigerians to ensure they take first, second and booster jabs of the COVID-19 Vaccine, in order to be immune against the Virus.  Director, Disease Control and Immunization at the NPHCDA, Dr Bassey Okposen stated this on “Have Your Say”, a Radio Nigeria “Good Governance and Public Accountability Programme.  Dr Okposen, who said the Agency was committed to sensitising Nigerians on the dangers of the disease and the need to be vaccinated, enjoined all citizens to avail themselves at every given opportunity to take the jab.  He also called on the Academic Institutions to make their Clinics functional to serve as vaccination Centres in their respective Schools.  Callers on the Programme, Mr Ode Ode from Abuja urged Government at all levels to support the Media to do more in Advocacy.  Mr Jude Ugbaja and Fidel Onyeneke who also called into the Programme commended the Ministry of Health and its Agencies for their prompt response towards the control of the Covid-19 Pandemic in the country. |
| 9 | **FG to Integrate COVID-19 Vaccination into Childhood Immunisation**  **January 26, 2022165**  The Federal Government says efforts are on to integrate the mass COVID-19 campaign with childhood immunisation and other Primary Health Care services.  The Executive Director of the National Primary Health Care Development Agency, Dr Faisal Shuaib, stated this in Abuja during a media briefing on the Progress of COVID-19 vaccination in the country.  Dr. Shuaib said alongside the COVID-19 vaccines, childhood vaccines would also be available at COVID-19 vaccination sites to prevent any neglect in other health care services or even have outbreaks of childhood vaccine-preventable diseases at hand.  Dr. Shuaib further disclosed that as at 25th of this month, records showed that over 14 million eligible persons had received the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine in the country while over 5 million eligible Nigerians had been fully vaccinated.  He also identified the Federal Capital Territory, Nasarawa, Jigawa, Ogun and Kwara states as the top 5 performing states on COVID-19 vaccine uptake.  Dr. Shuaib however advocated State Governors support especially those on low performance to be charged with the responsibility of ensuring that the populace within their constituencies were duly vaccinated.  Dr Shuaib said Nigeria has not recorded any death arising from Covid Vaccine since the commencement of the exercise March last year. |
| 10 | **FG destroys over one million Astrazeneca vaccines**  **December 22, 2021275**  The Federal Government has destroyed over one million doses of expired AstraZeneca vaccines.  At the inspection of the destroyed vaccines in Abuja, the Executive Director of National Primary Health Care Development Agency NPHCDA, Dr Shuaib Faisal said the destruction of the expired vaccines was to further demonstrate the commitment of the government ensuring that Nigerians were immunized with quality products.  Dr Faisal commended the Front liners workers for their sacrifices since the inception of the Covid19 pandemic.  The Director General of NAFDAC Professor Moji Adeyeye said Nigeria was rated high recently by UNICEF for her commitment to quality immunization of its citizens as well as promoting the health care of Nigerians |
| 11 | **FG to destroy over 1m expired AstraZeneca vaccines**  **December 14, 2021272**  The Presidential Steering Committee on Covid-19, PSC says over a million doses of expired AstraZeneca vaccines would be destroyed publicly, in line with environmental protocol.  The Executive Director, National Primary Healthcare Development Agency (NPHCDA), Dr Faisal Shuiab, disclosed Monday in Abuja, at an emergency media briefing by PSC on COVID-19.  He said the decision to destroy the vaccine publicly was to assure Nigerians that there was no intention to use them.  The Minister of Health, Dr Osagie Ehanire, had on December 8th confirmed the report of the expiration of doses of vaccines supplied to the country.  Dr Faisal Shuaib disclosed that over 10 million vaccines with short-shelf life received free of charge have been administered so far in the country.  According to the NPHCDA boss, the country will no longer accept vaccines with short-shelf life as it mounts undue pressure on health workers the clock to administer them.  He noted that vaccines were available in all its designated public, private, secondary and tertiary health facilities.  “As of today, the 13th of December 2021, 7,894,068 eligible persons have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine in Nigeria. This represents 7.1% of the eligible population required to be vaccinated.  “The total of fully vaccinated eligible people in Nigeria is 3,969,325 representing 3.6% of the eligible population. 496 persons have received their booster doses,” he added.    Dr Faisal Shuaib said that In recent times, the world begins to see an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases globally due to a new variant called the OMICRON variant.  “Mutation of COVID-19 occurs when the population remains unvaccinated. An unvaccinated community allows the virus an opportunity to thrive, grow and build up more attack mechanisms against our immune system.    “In Nigeria, we are now beginning to see an increased number of cases due to the fact that most of our eligible population have not presented themselves for vaccination. With increasing travels and interaction these ember months, the virus is still thriving and spreading within the communities because our eligible population have remained unvaccinated,” he added.  Shuaib noted that the COVID-19 was unable to replicate and cannot survive for long in a vaccinated individual.  He further noted that the joint Task Force on COVID-19 vaccine Monitoring and Accountability was present in all states and local Government Areas across the country and was working in a variety of ways to ensure that the vaccination exercise was secured against fraudulent and criminal activities.  Reporting by Emmanuel Kutara; editing by Abdullahi Lamino |
| 12 | **Kaduna govt flags off Covid-19 mass vaccination**  **December 10, 2021209**  Acting Governor of the State, Dr Hadiza Balarabe at the flag off Covid-19 vaccination in Kaduna North Local government Secretariat  Kaduna State Government has flag-off Covid-19 mass vaccination targeting all residents from 18 years and above.  This was aimed at improving the vaccination coverage from less than ten percent to seventy percent within the first quota of 2022.  At the flag off in Kaduna North Local government Secretariat, the Acting Governor of the State, Dr Hadiza Balarabe said 3,588 personnel in both public and private sectors will be engaged in various capacities to support the mobilization and vaccination process.  Dr Hadiza Balarabe explained that, 59 mobile trucks would be deploy to communities to support the vaccination.  According to her, it can only be achieved with the support of communities in dispelling the negative rumours about Covid-19 vaccination with a view to mobilize friends, families, and colleagues to get vaccinated.  She maintained that the State Government invested a lot of resources in response to Covid-19 pandemic.  In a remark, Communication Specialist UNICEF, office Kaduna, Mrs Adeola Olunlayo reaffirmed their commitment towards ensuring that, Kaduna residents were vaccinated.  Mrs Adeola noted that Covid-19 vaccine is safe and encouraged everyone to support the state government and ensure they were all vaccinated.  The Excutive Secretary, Kaduna State Primary Health Care Development Agency, Alhaji Hamza Abubakar said only two hundred thousand people vaccinated against COVID-19 in the state.  Reporting by Aminu Dalhatu; editing by Adeniyi Bakare |
| 13 | ‘**Highly contagious’ COVID-19 variant prompts FG advice on vaccination**  **November 29, 2021292**  The Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC) says it was monitoring emerging evidence on the newly discovered COVID-19 variation, Omicron, which was initially discovered in Southern Africa.  The emergence of the Omicron form, which is thought to be highly transmissible and has already sparked a fresh wave of travel restrictions, has prompted the Indonesian government to ban travellers from Nigeria and seven other African countries.  Canada detected two cases of Omicron COVID variant in ‘persons with recent travel from Nigeria’, TheCable reported.  According to Reuters, the Japanese government has also closed its borders to all foreigners out of concern for the variant.  On Tuesday, the World Health Organization (WHO) identified Omicron as a “variant of concern,” urging global authorities to take action to stop its spread.  NIgeria’s response to Omricon  NCDC’s Director-General, Dr Ifedayo Adetifa, said in a statement on Sunday that the federal ministry of health and the NCDC are aware of reports of the variant and are monitoring emerging evidence and its implications, to inform Nigeria’s response to the pandemic.  “While this variant has not yet been found in Nigeria, it has been reported in the United Kingdom, Israel, Botswana, Hong Kong, Germany, Belgium, and Italy, the statement said.  He, however, said the fears about the variant’s ability to evade protective immune responses and/or its being vaccine-resistant are only theoretical so far.  The NCDC urged Nigerians to take essential precautions against the pandemic by getting vaccinated and adhering to public health precautions such as wearing face masks, hand washing, and physical separation.  Additionally, the Agency advised against going to nations experiencing an increase in COVID-19 infections or reported instances of the Omicron variant.  Writing by Adeniyi Bakare, Editing by Saadatu Albashir |
| 14 | **Covid-19: FG to vaccinate 50 million by 2022**  **November 24, 2021**  Executive Chairman BSPHCDA, Dr Rilwanu Mohammed administering Covid-19 vaccine to Staff of the Bauchi Emirate Council, Babangida Jahun, while Bauchi State Coordinator NPHCDA, Bashir Maidabino, Director Primary Health Care Bauchi LGA Sulaiman Abdu Kirfi and others watches. Photo: Murtala Muhammad  Fifty million Nigerians are targeted to be vaccinated against Covid-19 before February 2022.Executive Secretary, National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) Dr Faisal Shu’aibu stated this at the flag off of the third phase of Covid-19 vaccination in Bauchi.  Dr Shu’aibu represented by the NPHCDA Head of Communication, Mohammed Abubakar said so far six million eligible Nigerians have been vaccinated for the first and second doses.  He said the Federal Government had procured a substantial number of the vaccine for use across the 6 geo-political zones of the country, and called on Nigerians to avail themselves for the exercise.  Emir of Bauchi Alhaji Rilwanu Sulaimanu Adamu while flagging off the exercise at his palace reiterated commitment to better the healthcare of his subjects.  Executive Chairman of the State Primary Health Care Development Agency Dr Rilwanu Mohammed expressed worry that six more unvaccinated people died of the disease in the state, hence the resolve to do the needful to curb the problem.  Reporting by Murtala Muhammad; editing by Muzha Kucha |
| 15 | **FCTA flags off COVID-19 vaccination**  **November 19, 2021196**  FCT Minister of State, Dr. Ramatu Tijjani Aliyu and some traditional rulers at the flag off  The Federal Capital Territory Administration is targeting to carry out mass vaccination of over 1.5 million residents in the next 50 days with COVID 19 vaccine across the six area councils  FCT Minister of State, Dr. Ramatu Tijjani Aliyu, performed the exercise at the Old Parade ground in Abuja.  She noted that the rapid spread of the virus emphasizes the need for an aggressive response and improved efforts to contain the infection and protect residents of the territory.  The minister assured residents that the Administration was taking up the challenge of improving on routine immunization, diseases surveillance, outbreak preparedness and response services as well as strengthening the primary Health Care scheme implementation in the FCT.  Dr Aliyu added that financing primary healthcare has improved steadily in the Federal Capital Territory Appropriation Act from 2019 to 2021, with over 30 percent increase on the previous year (2020) funding provision.  FCTA Permanent Secretary, Mr. Olusade Adesola, in his remarks reiterated that the Administration would continue to enforce the ‘no mask no entry’ restrictions at public places and regular hand washing campaign or the use of hand sanitizers, with not less than 70 percent alcohol base in all public places, including worship places.  Represented by the Director Operations, Planning and Strategy, Mr. Samuel Atang, the permanent Secretary called on all staff and residents of the territory to take this campaign very serious by making themselves available, including their family members, friends to take the COVID-19 vaccination.  “The vaccine has been certified by WHO to be safe. I therefore urge residents to disregard all negative perceptions about the vaccine”, he stressed.  The Executive Director National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), Dr. Faisal Shuab, thanked President Muhammadu Buhari, for his unrelenting commitment to the course of COVID-19 vaccination in Nigeria, which has been ranked by the World Health Organisation as the best in Africa and 4th best in the world.  Reporting by Remi Johnson, editing by Daniel Adejo. |
| 16 | **Lagos launches Covid-19 mass vaccination campaign**  **October 27, 2021189**  Executive Director National Primary Health Care Development Agency, Dr. Faisal Shuaib; representative of Chief of Naval Staff, Chief of Naval Transformation, Naval Headquarters, Rear Admiral Idowu Yusuf; Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu and Lagos Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi  The Lagos State Government has launched a mass covid-19 vaccination campaign tagged: “Count me in! 4 million Lagosians Vaccinated Against COVID-19 Campaign”  The campaign which is part of efforts aimed at halting the community spread of the virus and mitigating the potential damage that its further spread may cause is also targeted at enabling the State to achieve the prescribed herd immunity against the global pandemic.  Governor Sanwo-Olu who launched the campaign on the sidelines of the 7th African Conference on One Health and Biosecurity in explained that the Mass Vaccination Campaign which commenced today would run till Saturday, December 25th, 2021, while arrangements have been made to set up mass vaccination sites in high traffic locations across the State.  “We will set up COVID-19 vaccination fixed posts across 205 public health primary centres, 14 secondary and tertiary hospitals, and 400 private health centres across the 57 Local Government Areas and Local Council Development Areas. We aim to strengthen vaccine equity to ensure that every resident of Lagos State has a fair and equal chance to fully access the vaccine regardless of who they are or where they are from which is key to seeing the unbearable impact of the COVID-19 pandemic” Gov. Sanwo-Olu said.  According to the Governor, the total number of individuals vaccinated with the first dose of either AstraZeneca or Moderna is one point two million and fully vaccinated individuals are up to five hundred and fifty thousand, accounting for just about four percent of the target population to be vaccinated.  Governor Sanwo-Olu who announced that Lagos and the National Primary Health Care Development Agency, NPHCDA, would partner the private sector in this mass vaccination campaign against Covid-19, however, explained that while administration of the vaccines would be free at Public Health facilities, an administrative cost would apply to residents who choose to receive the vaccine at approved private facilities of their choice.  He said “Whilst the vaccines remain free as they were contributed to us by the Federal Government through the NPHCDA and our donors, a charge of N6,000 has been approved for relevant stakeholders in the administration of the vaccines in the private sector. This is to allow the private sector to recoup the resources they have deployed in the process of administering this vaccine. We encourage all Lagos residents to visit our listed public facilities to receive this vaccine at no cost to them; however, those that wish to receive them in the comforts of a private facility can do so at this administrative cost”.  Earlier in his address, the Executive Director of NPHCDA, Dr. Faisal Shuaib expressed confidence that the target of fully vaccinating four million Lagosians against the global pandemic before Christmas is achievable.  He said: “The critical position of Lagos as the major gateway into the country has made it very vulnerable. What we have therefore set out to do is to proactively ensure that as our citizens who live abroad return home for Christmas, Lagosians are not infected with new strains of the Delta virus. As you are aware, there is already a fourth wave in the UK. We do not want a fourth wave of COVID-19 in Lagos or anywhere in Nigeria for that matter”  targeted eligible population  Dr Faisal disclosed that a total of 5,588,477 eligible persons have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine in Nigeria as of the 26th of October 2021 adding that 2,950,236 have received their second dose and are fully vaccinated.  “These represent 5% and 2.6% respectively, of the targeted eligible population of 111,776,503. From this data, it is obvious that we are very far from reaching our target of vaccinating almost 112 million eligible persons, which is necessary for Nigeria to attain herd immunity against COVID-19. This is why the flag-off today is very significant.  Describing the Mass Vaccination Campaign as a carefully designed and quality-controlled strategy that creates greater access to COVID-19 vaccines in Nigeria through prudent expansion of vaccination sites and involvement of private and even more public health facilities in vaccine administration, Dr Faisal said Nigeria now has enough vaccines and urged all eligible citizens to get vaccinated.  Reporting by Omolara Omosanya; Editing by Tina Oyinsan |
| 17 | **FG makes COVID-19 vaccination compulsory for civil servants**  **October 13, 2021408**  The Presidential Steering Committee on COVID-19, PSC, says from December 1, Federal Government employees would be required to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative COVID-19 PCR test result done within 72 hours to gain access to their offices.  The Chairman of PSC and the Secretary to the Government of the Federation Mr Boss Mustapha stated at the national briefing of the committee in Abuja.  He said the directive includes all locations within Nigeria and its mission Offices.  Mr Mustapha explained that the reason for the directive was to further consolidate the progress so far achieved in fighting the Coronavirus noting that Nigeria has enough COVID-19 vaccines for its citizens.  He added that a circular to this effect will be sent to all Federal Government Ministries, Agencies and Parastatals.  Reporting by Emmanuel Kutara, Editing by Tola Oguneye |
| 18 | **FG flags-off vaccination for persons of concern**  **December 9, 2021318**  The Federal Government has Flag-off Covid-19 vaccination for persons of concern in the country.  During the inauguration at the Waru Internally Displaced Persons Camp, Apo in the FCT the National Commissioner, National Commission for Refugees Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons, Hajiya Imaan Suleiman-Ibrahim encouraged the IDPs who are 18 years and above to take full advantage of the initiative and get vaccinated to enable the government to contain its spread  “Vaccines will undoubtedly enable society to revert to ‘normalcy’ and restrictions continue to ease. To this end, I want to encourage our Persons of Concern who are 18 years and above to take full advantage of this initiative and get vaccinated, because according to experts, by getting vaccinated, you break the chain of disease transmission, you reduce mutations and Variants of the virus, you protect others, and even if you become ill, the severity of sickness is usually mild and does not require hospitalization. I have been fully vaccinated; I encourage you all to do the same.” She said.  Hajiya Imaan noted that as a commission responsible for persons of concern in the country the exercise became imperative to ensure that they are not left out of the vaccination and efforts towards fighting the COVID-19.  The National Commissioner, National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displayed Person’s and the Executive Director National Primary Health Care Development Agency, Dr Faisal Shuaib at the Flag off of Covid 19 Vaccination at Waru IDP Camp in the FCT. Photo Hadiza Abdulrahman  The National Commissioner, National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displayed Person’s and the Executive Director National Primary Health Care Development Agency, Dr Faisal Shuaib at the Flag off of Covid 19 Vaccination at Waru IDP Camp in the FCT. Photo Hadiza Abdulrahman  The National Commissioner, National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displayed Person’s and the Executive Director National Primary Health Care Development Agency, Dr Faisal Shuaib at the Flag off of Covid 19 Vaccination at Waru IDP Camp in the FCT. Photo Hadiza Abdulrahman  The Executive Director of the National Primary Health Care Development Agency, Dr Faisal Shuaib explained that the exercise would fast-track the coverage of all eligible persons.  The Federal Government under the able leadership of our dear President Muhammadu Buhari is determined to ensure that every eligible Nigeria and indeed any persons in Nigeria has access to the COVID-19 vaccines.  He reiterated that COVID-19 vaccines are now accessible in all public, primary, secondary, and tertiary facilities as well private health facilities, worship centres, schools, markets, motor parks, and shopping malls to fast track social and economic recovery from COVID-19  Reporting by Hadiza Abdulrahman; editing by Abdullahi Lamino |
| 19 | **Unvaccinated federal workers barred from offices**  **December 1, 2021592**  Civil Servants at the entrance of Federal Secretariat, Phase One, Abuja Photo: Adeniyi Bakare  Federal workers in Abuja who have not been vaccinated against COVID-19 were denied access to their offices.  The Federal Government had set a December 1 deadline for all its employees to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.  According to the directive by the Chairman of the Presidential Steering Committee on COVID-19 and Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha, “Federal Government employees shall be required to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative COVID-19 PCR test result obtained within 72 hours in order to gain access to their offices in all locations throughout Nigeria and our Missions.”  Mr Mustapha had said the decision was made in the best interests of Nigerians and to stop the spread of the COVID-19 within the country.  As a result of the directive, the majority of Civil Servants who spoke to Radio Nigerians pleaded with the Federal Government to extend their time for vaccination.  Earlier, the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, Dr Folasade Yemi-Esan had in a statement directed that Grade 12 and below resume on Wednesday, December 1, 2021.  The federal government had on March 4, extended the work-from-home directive due to the surge of the COVID-19 infection in the country, as what the NCDC said was a responsibility to curb its spread.  The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control on Wednesday morning confirmed the first case of the Omicron variant in the country. The variant to considered to be the most virulent, and the World Health Organisation, WHO has tagged it, ‘variant of concern‘. Omicron variant, a new strain of the coronavirus disease, was reported by South Africa and first detected in Botswana. Already, governments the world over have begun to place travel restrictions, especially on African countries, as WHO warns that such action may erode global solidarity.  Reporting by Adeniyi Bakare; Editing by Saadatu Albashir |
| 20 | **UK to review Nigeria’s vaccination certification**  **October 6, 2021224**  The National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), says Nigeria like many other countries, is still on queue to have its vaccination certification programme reviewed by the United Kingdom (UK).  The Executive Director, NPHCDA, Dr. Faisal Shuaib who made this known at the weekly briefing on COVID-19 vaccination status, explained that the review was being carried out by the UK government in phases, adding that Nigeria was not amongst red listed countries. According to him, the vaccines administered in Nigeria were approved by the UK Government.  The NPHCDA Director disclosed that intensified campaigns by the Agency for uptake of second dose of COVID-19 vaccine through various channels have yielded appreciable results.  As at 4th of October 2021, Nigeria had vaccinated 4,963,985 eligible persons across the country with first dose of COVID-19 vaccines. This figure represents 4.4% of the targeted 111,776,503 eligible population. About 2,166,186 people have received their second doses of the vaccines, representing approximately 1.9% of eligible population now fully vaccinated against COVID-19. He stressed that only those who have taken their second dose are fully protected against the deadly COVID-19.  While noting that an additional 501,600 doses of AstraZeneca vaccines were on Monday received from the COVAX facility as donation from the Government of France, he added that receipt of 3,577,860 doses of Pfizer vaccines within the next two weeks have been confirmed, even as more doses of COVID-19 vaccines were expected through the COVAX facility in the coming months.  Reporting by Nancy Anika, editing by Daniel |