



## **Covid-19: A Study of Covid-19 Precautionary Measures in The Light of Islam**

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### **Abstract**

Covid-19 is a contagious disease that is spreading within the globe nowadays. Due to that government of different countries including Nigeria are taken different precautionary measures that require citizens to comply. Therefore, this paper focuses on Islamic perspectives towards such measures which governments ask people to adhere. This study revealed that precautionary measures like washing hand regularly, avoiding shaking hand, and social distancing were not gone contrarily to the teaching of Islam. Thus, this paper recommended that; Muslim should adhere with covid-19 rules, government should also provide facilities that will help in tackling spreading of the disease.

**Keywords:** Covid-19, Pandemic, Islam, Precautionary, Government.

### **1. Introduction**

Allah has created human beings for the purpose to be devoted unto Him. Doing so was not an assurance for being free from His examination. Allah can examine them any time He will. Therefore, Muslims should put this in their mind that an outbreak of any pandemic is from the Almighty and He is the only one that can protect them from any calamity confronted them.

The world is presently suffering from respiratory disease. The disease has spread widely across the globe; the country affected includes Nigeria, China, and other countries (Muhammad, 2020) The spreading of this disease has affected social, economic and religious aspects of human life

The situation led to the introduction of different precautionary measures that would help in tackling the spreading of that disease called Covid19 pandemic. Some of the measures taken by the authorities include shunning public gathering, social distancing, cleanliness and quarantine.

### **2. The Concept of Pandemic**

Scientifically, Pandemic is an outbreak of disease that occurs over a wide geographical area. (Such as multiple countries or continents) and typically affects a significant proportion of the population. (Merriam-Dictionary)

In Islam, A pandemic is any calamity that spread within the community and caused losses of lives and property.



### **3. Pandemic in Qur'an and Hadith**

Qur'an and hadith as primary sources of sharia are the treasuries and references in which Muslims refer when any simple and complicated issue arises. Therefore, this paper is going to expose the injunctions about the issues of pandemic in Qur'an and hadith.

Firstly, The Qur'an did not directly talk about the pandemic but its nature was clearly stated. For example, the punishment which Allah made to the people of Prophet Musa in Egypt can be described as Pandemic. In the holy Qur'an Allah says:

“So, We sent upon them the flood and locusts and lice and frogs and flood as distinct sign, but they were arrogant and were criminal people.” (Q2:243)

In another verse Allah (The Most High) talks about those that tried to escape from the plague in their land Allah says

“Have you not considered those who left their homes in many thousands, fearing death? Allah said to them,” Die”, then He restored them to life. And Allah is full bounty to the people, but most of the people do not show gratitude.”

The above verse indicated that the quarantine during pandemic is obedience to Allah. Man should stay in any place where the outbreak of pandemic is noticed.

Secondly, the word ‘waba’ or Attoun was clearly stated in hadith. According to Imam al Nawawi an epidemic or ‘Ta’un’ involves a state of illness affecting much of the population on specific region as opposed to other region (Conrad L. 1982). Thus, the following are some of the literatures concerning plague and its precautionary measures from the prophetic tradition. Prophet Muhammad reported to have said:

“If you hear an outbreak of plague in a land, do not enter it, but if the plague breaks out in a place while you are in it, do not leave that place” (Saheeh Bukhari)

The above hadith vindicated that when a plague occurs in a certain place, the people of that place should remain there and other people should not join them until the plague was controlled.

### **4. Islamic Perspectives towards the Precautionary Measures of Covid-19 in Nigeria**

Nigeria, like other countries, applied the measures suggested by the World Health Organization. The measures are as follows:

1. Clean your hands often
2. Cough or sneeze in your bent elbow-not your hands.
3. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
4. Limit social gathering and time spent in crowded places.
5. Avoid close contact with someone who is sick
6. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surface. (WHO 2021)

By considering the above precautions we may understand that the precautionary measures have been divided into two categories. The item 1,2,3, and 6 talks about cleanliness while items 4 and 5 are on quarantine and social distance. Thus, this paper is going to expose Islamic injunctions on some of the measures taken by the Nigerian government.



#### **4.1 Cleanliness**

Cleanliness is the quality or state of being clean, or is the practice of keeping oneself or one's surrounding clean. (Merriam Dictionary, 2021) Islam encourages cleanliness at all times, this makes the cleanliness to be aware by Muslims. The following are some of the verses and ahadith that encourage purity and cleanliness.

In the holy Qur'an Allah says:

“O! you who believed, when you rise to (perform) prayer, wash your faces and your fore arms to the elbows and wipe your over your head and hands, and wash your foot to the ankles.” (Q5:6)

The above verse indicated that Muslims used to wash some parts of their body regularly as an obedient to Allah's saying. Due to the above verse washing hands was not a new thing to Muslim Ummah.

In another verse Allah also says:

“Indeed! Allah loves who are constantly repentant and loves those who purify themselves” (Q2:222)

Any Muslim who is looking for Allah's love and pleasure should always ask for Allah's forgiveness and should also be purified.

There are also some ahadith that encourage cleanliness. For instance, Prophet Muhammad reported to have said:

“Cleanliness is a half of Iman” (Saheeh Muslim)

By considering the above hadith we can understand that cleanliness is a part Muslims' faith, and every Muslim is expected to be a Mumin.

#### **4.2 Quarantine**

Quarantine is an act restricting one's self from entering where the contagious disease is noticed. Islam encouraged distancing any place in which pandemic overwhelmed. In a tradition Prophet reported to have said:

“If you hear an outbreak of plague in a land, do not enter it, but if the plague outbreaks out in a place while you are in it, do not leave that place.” (Saheeh Bukhari)

#### **4.3 Avoiding Shaking Hand**

Avoiding shaking hands is one of the precautionary measures of covid-19 pandemic. There was a time when the Prophet accepted the allegiance of lepers without shaking hands. This shows that it was recommended by the prophet to boycott shaking hands with anyone who has contagious disease. It was reported in a hadith. (Ami J. 2020)

“We have accepted your oath of allegiance; so you may go.” (Saheeh Muslim)

#### **4.4 Social Distancing**

Like other precautionary measures, social distancing during pandemic was encouraged by Prophet (p.b.u.h). He was reported to have said:

“Flee from the leper as you would flee from a lion” (Saheeh Bukhari)



## 5. Recommendations

Based on the above discussion we recommended that:

1. Muslims should adhere with covid-19 precautionary measures in order to escape from being victims of covid-19 pandemic
2. Government should provide facilities and equipment that will contribute towards the spreading of the disease.
3. People should also fear Allah and seek His assistance in any circumstances.

## 6. Conclusion

In sum, covid-19 Pandemic is a contagious disease that penetrates nooks and crannies of the globe. Due to its rapid spreading the governments took certain precautionary measures which people expected to adhere to. The measures include quarantine, social distance and wearing face masks. Therefore, this paper studied some of the measures in line with the teaching of Islam, it was concluded that the precautionary measures of covid-19 are not against the teaching of Islam.

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