



REPORT ON A ONE-DAY SENSITIZATION FORUM ON LASSA FEVER AND NOVEL CORONAVIRUS HELD ON TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY, 2020

Preamble

Following the recent outbreak of Lassa fever and coronavirus, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ndowa E. S. Lale and the University Management decided to organize a one-day sensitization forum on Lassa fever and novel coronavirus to sensitize the University Community and the general public on the recent outbreak.

The event was anchored by African Centre of Excellence, Centre for Public Health and Toxicological Research (PUTOR) in collaboration with School of Public Health (SPH) and Faculty of Science as directed by the Vice-Chancellor.

Methodology

In a bid to invite the University Community and the general public as directed by the Vice-Chancellor, the African Centre of Excellence, Centre for Public Health and Toxicological Research (ACE-PUTOR) in collaboration with School of Public Health (SPH) and Faculty of Science produced banners, flyers, etc. for the one-day sensitization forum on the recent outbreak of Lassa fever and coronavirus.

Event

The one-day sensitization forum on Lassa fever and novel coronavirus was held on Tuesday 11th February, 2020 at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University of Port Harcourt.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ndowa E. S. Lale who was the Chief host declared the event open.

The event was well attended by the University Management, Deans, HODs, students, staff and stakeholders.

Four hundred and fifty-one (451) were in attendance.

The event also featured some speakers from different background and a panelist.

They include:

Dr. Omosivie Maduka, Consultant Epidemiologist UPTH

Dr. Golden Owhonda, Director Public Health and Disease Control, RS-MOH

Dr. Datonye Alasia, Consultant Infectious Disease/Respiratory Physician, UPTH

Dr. Chinwe Ezirim, Health Services Dept. Uniport.

It was discussed that Lassa fever is a viral illness that typically occurs in West Africa and that The Lassa virus is transmitted to humans mainly through handling rats, food or household items contaminated by rats' urine and faeces. The virus can spread between people through direct contact with the body fluids of a person infected with Lassa fever, as well as contaminated bedding and clothing.

It was also agreed that one cannot get Lassa fever through hugging, shaking hands or sitting near someone.

Event Picture

Group pictures were taken immediately after the event with the Vice-Chancellor as well as other pictures during the event.

The pictures are been stored in a CD and kept in PUTOR archive for record purpose.

Members of the Organising Committee

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|---------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| 1. Dr. Kingsley Patrick-Iwuanyanwu | - | Chairman |
| 2. Dr. (Mrs.) Ojule | - | Member |
| 3. Dr. Frances Anacletus | - | " |
| 4. Mr. Williams Wodi | - | " |
| 5. Mrs. Anthonet Ndidiamaka Ezejiofor | - | " |
| 6. Dr. Faith Diorgu | - | " |
| 7. Dr. Catherine Ikewuchi | - | " |
| 8. Mr. Confidence Igwe | - | Secretary |

Confidence Igwe
Principal Assistant Registrar