

Members Respond to the Coronavirus Challenge

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What's the biggest work/COVID-19 challenge you're facing this week?

Generally, the cases are rising in Nigeria and we just had the total numbers exceed 11000. I am still working from home but as the lockdown is eased and life returns to normal, my mind is really focused on seeing how the various levels of government in Nigeria are mitigating the risk that this easement will bring.

What's the current situation in your city relative to opening non-essential businesses?

Non-essential businesses are gradually picking up as the lockdown is eased. The curfew is relaxed more and although pre-COVID levels have not been achieved, increasingly, non-essential businesses are returning. Places like gyms, spas, parks, etc. are expected to reopen in two weeks and there are protocols to be enforced by the government agency responsible for safety.

How do you think COVID-19 will bring about permanent changes in corporate real estate and workplace strategy?

I see a big strategy disruption, and its already happening. In Nigeria for instance I see a lot of corporate organisations beginning to look more at the options for homeworking for a number of roles. The lockdown was the proof they needed to consider that, so physical office spaces may reduce. With social distancing and the need for protective barriers, space planning will be different, as the general balance between business and personal needs in the workspace create their own tension.