

Televised Interpreted COVID-19 Briefings and Deaf Viewers: A Preliminary Investigation of Associated Concerns

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ABSTRACT Since its emergence, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has placed a strain on human existence and social interactions. With its disruptive potentials, basic information on COVID-19 is essential for all including those who are deaf. However, until now access to COVID-19 related information to the deaf via sign language on television vis-à-vis quality and comprehensibility of deaf viewers remains a concern. Hence, the researchers initiated this study to explore and to provide understanding to concerns about COVID-19 press briefing as perceived by the Nigerian deaf community. The study adopted a qualitative research design using a semi-structured interview, this study found that visibility, incomplete interpretation, inadequate knowledge of deafness and deaf communication processes were factors that influenced perceived quality of televised interpreted PTF COVID-19 briefings. Participants had partial comprehension of interpreted COVID-19 briefings. Based on the findings, recommendations were made.