Knowledge, attitude and practice towards COVID-19 among UAE Residents: an online cross-sectional survey

Dr.Lubna Lutfi,
Dr.Alma AlMansour,
Dr.Al Reem Al Marzouqi,
Dr.Zainab Salman
Dr.Syeda Hira Hassan
Dr.Hiba Hamad

Abstract:

COVID-19 is an emerging respiratory virus which was initially reported to the WHO on December 31, 2019 and declared as a public health emergency by the WHO on March 11, 2020.

Our Aim was to investigate the public's knowledge, attitudes, and practice towards COVID-19.

To do this, we designed an online cross-sectional study. The questionnaire was in both the Arabic and English Language, and consisted of 4 segments (demographic, knowledge, attitude, and practice). The results were collected anonymously. The data was inserted in Excel Sheets and then exported and analyzed using SPSS software.

The results of the study were as follows,a total of 1,602 UAE residents completed the questionnaire. The mean Knowledge score is 71% which reflects good knowledge. The mean attitude score is 78% which reflects a positive attitude. The mean practice score is 76% which reflects good practice. 94% of the population avoid handshakes, 93.3% wear face masks regularly, 85.5% use hand sanitizers, and 66% wash their hands. 22.7% drink honey with ginger, 13% still prefer to take garlic. 82% chose to constantly update themselves with information about COVID-19 however only 10% relied on purely medical sources.

In conclusion this study showed that U.A.E residents have satisfactory knowledge and favorable practice, with an overall high positive attitude. However, it is still encouraged to continue efforts in spreading awareness and public health education across all platforms, as well as increase awareness campaigns and correct misconceptions circulating on non-medical platforms since they are a major source of information for the public.