

Mohamad Al-Tannir, Isamme AlFayyad

### Background

The World Health Organization (WHO) classified COVID-19 as a "global pandemic" that threatens human health due to the rapid and fierce spread of the virus worldwide. Healthcare Workers (HCWs) are key elements to aid the prevention of COVID-19 outbreak.

### Objectives

This study aims to explore the HCWs knowledge about COVID-19 HCWs in a tertiary care medical city, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to swiftly prepare awareness campaigns on the possible misconceptions.

### Methods

This cross-sectional study included 21 questions adopted from WHO and CDC guidelines via a questionnaire displayed on Google Forms from March 29 to April 5, 2020. In addition to demographic characteristics, questions about COVID-19 virology & epidemiology, transmission, clinical presentation & diagnosis, management and prevention were included.

### Results

498 participants completed the survey and were entered into final data analysis. 8.2% of HCWs claimed that they are not at risk of COVID-19 infection, and 30.5% did not know the correct incubation period. Only 65.7% could identify the number of secondary infections generated from a single individual, and 19.3% believed that it is unnecessary for children and young adults to take precautions against COVID-19. Despite 96.8% of participants being able to recognize the key clinical symptoms of COVID-19, 37% have thought that all cases of COVID-19 will develop to severe cases. Moreover, 7.6% of HCWs thought that COVID-19 vaccine is already available in the market, and 40.8% have believed that consistently wearing a facemask is effective against COVID-19.

### Conclusion

The results of the present study showed that HCWs possess good knowledge on COVID-19. However, few concepts were still below par protective measures guidelines. Therefore, the HCWs require additional awareness and orientation to the proper utilization of adequate transmission preventive procedures in order to ensure mutual HCWs-patient protection.