

Adherence to Physical Distance and Mask Wearing from Civil Servant's Viewpoints during COVID-19 Pandemic, between the 2nd and 3rd Peaks in Southern Iran, 2020: An Online-based Survey

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Abstract:

Introduction: COVID-19 rapidly spread globally. Until now, no effective treatment has been provided. Thus, preventive activities such as mask-wearing and social distancing are a priority. This study aimed to measure mask wearing and physical distance adherence after the second wave of COVID-19.

Methods: In this Web-based survey, 1100 staff members participated. We used an online platforms called Porsline for data collection. Online data included demographic characteristics and staff member's viewpoints about mask wearing and physical distance in their communities. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and Pearson's correlation test.

Results: Finally, 1100 participants (584 men) aged 23-66 years filled out the questionnaire. Most of them believed that mask wearing was increased in the community, but with a variety in different places. The lowest percentage of increasing mask wearing was in the park (67.1%) and the highest percentage was among people referring to government offices (86.1%). The lowest percentage in increasing adherence to physical distance was among users of private cars (56.3%) and the highest percentage was among civil servants (74.8%). Physical distance was also increased, although less than wearing a mask.

Conclusion: Although mask wearing and adherence to physical distance in community have increased, they have not been developed. On the other hand, it seems that the health system should pay more attention to physical distance.

Keywords: Civil servants, COVID-19, pandemic, wearing-mask, Physical distance