

Personal and Household Hygiene Measures for Prevention of Upper Respiratory Tract Infections among Children: A Cross Sectional Survey on Parental Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices

Authors : Man Wai Leung, Margaret O'Donoghue, Lorna K. P. Suen

Abstract : Personal and household hygiene measures are important to prevent upper respiratory tract infections (URTIs) and other infectious diseases, including coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). An online survey recruited 414 eligible parents in Hong Kong to study their hygiene knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) in the prevention of URTIs among their children. The average knowledge score was high (10.2/12.0), but some misconceptions were identified. The majority of participants agreed that good personal hygiene (93.5%) and good environmental hygiene (92.8%) can prevent URTIs. The average score for hand hygiene practices was high (3.78/4.00), but only 56.8% of parents always perform hand hygiene before touching their mouth, nose, or eyes. For environmental hygiene, only some household items were disinfected with disinfectants (69.8%: door handles, 60.4%: toilet seats, 42.8%: floor, 24.2%: dining chairs, 20.5%: dining tables). Higher knowledge score was associated with parents having a tertiary educational level or above, working as healthcare professionals, living at private residential flat or staff quarter, and having a household income of \$70,000 or above. Hand hygiene practices varied significantly with parents' age and income. During the 5th wave of the COVID-19 epidemic, misconceptions about hygiene knowledge were found among parents. Health promotion programs should target parents, especially those who are in old age, obtain lower educational levels, live in public housing, or have a lower income. Hand hygiene moments and proper use of disinfectants could be one of the targeted educational topics.

Keywords : hygiene, upper respiratory tract infection, parents, children, COVID-19

Conference Title : ICIPH 2022 : International Conference on Infection and Public Health

Conference Location : Sydney, Australia

Conference Dates : December 02-03, 2022