

PERCEPTION OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLY SOP AMONG MALAYSIANS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

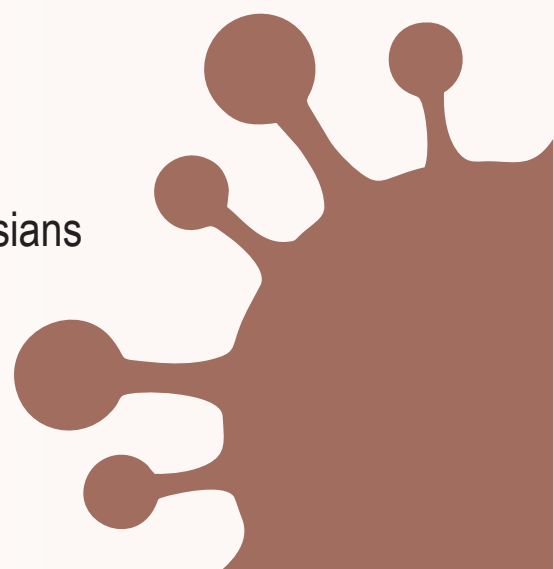
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INTRODUCTION

Throughout the pandemic years in Malaysia, COVID-19 has demonstrated substantial mortality and morbidity rates. The government has issued a Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO) to prevent the spread of this extremely contagious disease throughout the population. Although the authorities continue to demand strict adherence to COVID-19 SOPs, how much do Malaysians still follow them.

AIM

This study aims to assess perception of opportunity to comply SOP among Malaysians during COVID-19 pandemic



RESULTS

Demographic profile (n=4,105)

GENDER	Male	27.9% (1,144)
	Female	66.5% (2,730)
AGE	18 - 25 years	4.5% (184)
	26 - 45 years	64.4% (2,642)
	46 - 60 years	28.5% (1,169)
	61 and above	2.7% (110)
ETHNICITY	Malay	83.6% (3,430)
	Chinese	6.1% (252)
	Indian	3.9% (158)
	Bumiputera Sabah	3.2% (130)
	Bumiputera Sarawak	2.8% (114)
	Others	4% (18)
OCCUPATION	Employed full time	82.9% (3,402)
	Employed part time	1.4% (59)
	Unemployed & seeking for job	2.1% (86)
	Student	2.6% (106)
	Retired	4.1% (170)
	Housemaker/Housewife/Househusband	3.3% (137)
	Self-Employed	3.4% (139)
	Unable to work	1% (5)
STATE	Selangor	27.9% (1,144)
	Kuala Lumpur	9.6% (393)
	Kelantan	8.0% (328)
	Perak	7.0% (289)
	Putrajaya	7.0% (288)
	Johor	6.3% (258)
	Pahang	5.7% (234)
	Kedah	4.5% (186)
	Sarawak	4.4% (179)
	Melaka	4.1% (169)
	Negeri Sembilan	2.7% (153)
	Sabah	3.7% (151)
	Pulau Pinang	3.5% (143)
	Terengganu	3.1% (128)
	Perlis	0.9% (37)
	Labuan	0.6% (25)

METHOD

Study Design	Mixed-method approach (quantitative & qualitative)
Sampling Technique	Purposive sampling using snowball technique via online method which used survey link to social medias and official Ministry of Health emails in recruiting the respondents
Target Population	Malaysians, internet users aged 18 years and above
Instrument	Adapted by Van Rooij et al. (2020).
Data Collection	1st April 2020 to 31st May 2021
Ethical Approval	Medical Research Ethics Registry (MREC), NMRR-20-2955-57601(RII)
Total Responses	4,105 respondents (after data cleaning)
Response Rates	99.6%

The findings showed that approximately 63.4% of Malaysians disagree to be in close proximity with people outside their house. About 78.2% disagree to take off their face mask whenever they want. Meanwhile, 77.5% and 78.9% disagree to not washing their hands after touching any surfaces in public places and to enter public premises without taking body temperature.

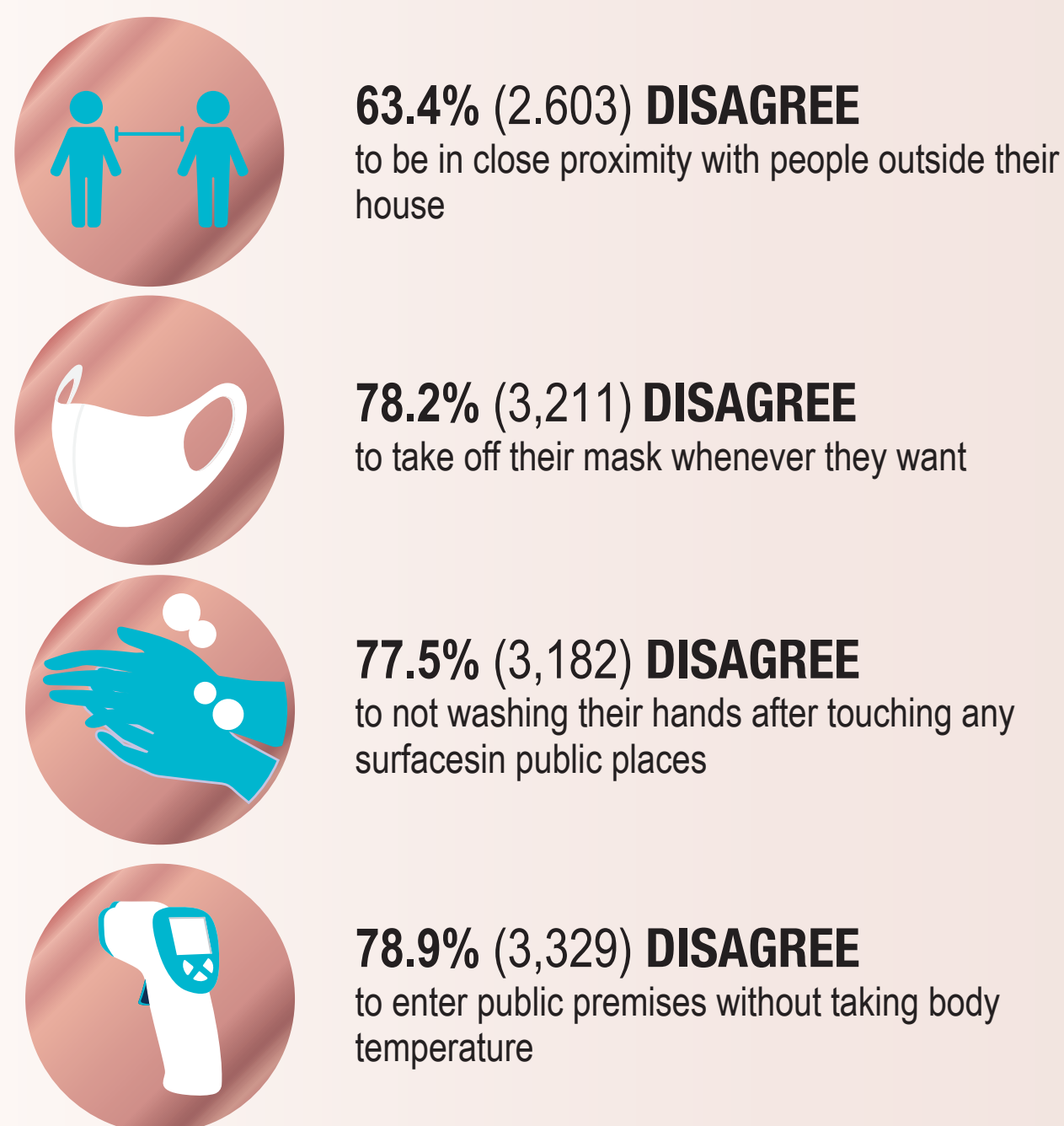


Figure 1 Opportunity to comply during COVID-19 pandemic in Malaysia

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

This shows that Malaysians do comply with the SOP implemented in well-mannered although solemnly there are percentage of them are still in decline. Flattening the COVID-19 curve is a unanimous action that should be taken by the citizens and also the government, it shouldn't be taken slightly as it includes lives at stake. Campaigns and programme should be increased to target population in increasing their awareness of the importance of compliance to halt the spread of the disease.

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