

NEW NORMS PRACTICE OF COVID-19 AMONG MALAYSIAN PUBLIC (NMRR-20-2955-57601(RII))



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Introduction

Globally, we are in the midst of a COVID-19 epidemic, with the number of positive cases and deaths rising daily. The government has taken several steps to prevent this disease from reaching an alarming level. Public health education, community empowerment, enforcement, contact tracking, and case coordination are among them. Malaysian public is also advised to always practice new norms such as social distancing, wearing facemask, hand hygiene as well as check in with MySejahtera app and temperature screening.

Aim

This study aims to examine the new norms practiced by the Malaysian public as the COVID-19 outbreak entered its second year.

Method

Study Design	A cross-sectional online survey
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
Data Collection Period	1st April 2021 to 31st May 2021
Total Respondents	4,105 respondents
Analysis	Descriptive analysis

Result

A Demographic Profile

GENDER

Men:
33.5% (1,375)

Women:
66.5% (2,730)

AGE GROUP

18 – 25 years:
4.5% (184)

26 – 45 years:
64.4% (2,642)

46 – 60 years:
28.5% (1,169)

61 years & above:
2.7% (110)

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:
3.3% (137)

Self-employed:
3.4% (139)

Unable to work:
1% (5)

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:
4.0% (18)

STATES

Selangor: 27.9% (1,144)

K.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)

N.Sembilan: 2.7% (153)

Sabah: 3.7% (151)

P.Pinang: 3.5% (143)

Terengganu: 3.1% (128)

Perlis: 0.9% (37)

Labuan: 0.6% (25)

Figure 1: Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Main Findings

B New Norms Practice

Table 1: Malaysian Moral Alignment Regarding Covid-19 Pandemic

SOP Compliance	Item	Percentage (%)
Social Distancing	✓ always avoid public gatherings	90.3% (3,706)
	✓ avoid touching or shaking hands	89.9% (3,689)
Cleanliness (hand hygiene)	✓ use hand sanitizer, water and soap	85.0% (3,490)
	✓ cover their nose and mouth when sneezing	88.4% (3,628)
	✓ avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with hands	68.9% (2,828)
Wearing Facemask	✓ wearing face mask in public areas	95.6% (3,926)
Check in using MySejahtera app & body temperature screening	✓ check in using My Sejahtera app or write down the attendance in the book provided	92.9% (3,812)
	✓ check body temperature at public places	91.8% (3,769)

Discussion and Conclusion

Even in the face of a prolonged pandemic, the Malaysian public is still adhering to the new norms practice as advised by the government. However, a slightly lower percentage finds it difficult to avoid from touching their eyes, nose and mouth. This behaviour is probably a reflex or an involuntary response which is beyond their control. Thus, something needs to be done in order to break this conditional habit.

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