

Supplementary Figure S1; Full Study Questionnaire

Decoding Healthcare Workers' Knowledge, Practice, and Attitude Toward Cough Etiquette: Is the Elbow Bump a Safe Greeting?

Dear Member of the Healthcare Team,

Your participation in answering these questions accurately will help achieve the objectives of this research in an objective manner and will contribute to improving performance levels in the field of infection control.

This study aimed to assess the knowledge, practice, and attitudes of healthcare workers regarding cough etiquette techniques and the safety of elbow bump greetings and to examine the influence of demographic factors on these parameters.

Study Description:

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to:

- Complete a confidential questionnaire (approximately 7–10 minutes). Healthcare team members will complete the questionnaire after providing some basic demographic information and information related to their knowledge and attitudes.
- There are no expected physical or psychological risks associated with participation in this study, as the survey poses no harm and does not involve the collection of identifying information.

The study is anonymous, and all information will be kept strictly confidential. Your name will not be used in any reports or publications. Participation in this study is entirely voluntary. You may choose to decline or withdraw at any time without any penalty.

Do you agree to participate in this study?

1. Yes
2. No

Thank you for your cooperation.

First: Personal Demographic Data

1. **Age:**
18–25 () 25–35 () More than 35 ()
2. **Job Title:**
a) Physician b) Nurse c) Pharmacist d) Technician e) Other
- 3) **Department:**
a) Inpatient wards
b) clinical outpatient
c) Critical Care Unit
d) Emergency unit
e) Infection control Unit
f) Operation rooms
g) Other
3. **Educational Qualification:**
a) Bachelor's degree
b) Master's degree
c) Diploma
d) Ph.D.
e) Post Ph.D.
f) Other: _____
4. **Years of Experience:**
a) Less than 1 year () b) 1–5 years () c) More than 5 years ()
5. **Have you previously received training courses on infection control?**
a) Yes () 2) No ()

Second: Knowledge level regarding cough etiquette			
Items	Correct/true	Not correct/false	I don't Know
1) Respiratory etiquette alone is not a completely reliable way to prevent the spread of respiratory infections.			
2) The correct method of cough etiquette is to sneeze, blow your nose, or cough into a disposable tissue.			
3) Discard tissues immediately after use and always wash your hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand rub after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose.			
4) If tissues are not available, cough or sneeze into your upper arm or sleeve (elbow); avoid using your hands.			
5) Coughing or sneezing into the elbow reduces (not increases) the spread of infection compared with using hands.			
6) Germs may remain viable for hours to days on different surfaces, including clothing.			
7) If clothes become contaminated after coughing or sneezing into the elbow, they should be changed and washed.			
8) Avoid using cloth handkerchiefs, as they may retain germs. Disposable tissues are preferred.			

Scoring: Each correct answer is scored as 1 point, while incorrect answers are scored as 0 points. The total possible score ranges from 0 to 8. Knowledge levels are classified based on the total score: scores of 7 to 8 points (75% or higher) indicate high knowledge, scores of 5 to 6 points (50–74%) indicate moderate knowledge, and scores of 0 to 4 points (less than 50%) indicate low knowledge.

Third: Practice level regarding cough etiquette

Items	Correct action/I do that	Not correct action/ I do not do that
1) Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.		
2) Dispose of the used tissue immediately in a waste basket.		
3) Avoid coughing or sneezing into your hands, as this spreads germs.		
4) Practice effective hand hygiene after coughing, sneezing, or touching used tissues.		
5) If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow.		
6) You may be asked to wear a face mask to help protect others.		
7) Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 15 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.		

Scoring: Scoring:

Each item is scored from 1 to 2, with higher scores indicating better adherence to recommended practices. The total possible score ranges from 7 (lowest adherence) to 14 (highest adherence). Practice levels can be classified as follows: Good practice: $\geq 75\%$ of the total score (11–14 points); Moderate practice: 50–74% of the total score (7–10 points); Poor practice: $< 50\%$ of the total score (1–6 points)

Fourth: Practice level regarding cough etiquette					
Items	1 SD	2 D	3 N	4 A	5 SA
1) I believe that handwashing is very important at all times.					
2) I understand that wearing gloves does not replace handwashing.					
3) Hand hygiene is still necessary after following cough etiquette.					
4) Cough etiquette for infection control should always be adhered.					
5) Cough etiquette is important in hospital setting.					
6) I feel that cough etiquette is essential to prevent respiratory infections.					
7) I believe that coughing into the elbow alone is not sufficient to prevent infection.					
8) However, coughing or sneezing into the elbow is widely recommended as a method to reduce respiratory virus transmission.					
9) Using the arm or sleeve as a barrier may not fully eliminate the risk of infection spread.					
10) Arms and sleeves may transfer infection if contaminated.					
11) Elbow bumps are not completely safe as a greeting, since the elbow can carry germs after coughing/sneezing.					
12) Viruses may remain viable for hours to days on different surfaces, including clothing.					
13) Elbow contact may pose a risk of transmission if someone coughs or sneezes into their sleeve and then greets others with an elbow bump.					
14) I feel that elbow bumps are a potential risk factor for transmission of respiratory viruses, especially since changing contaminated clothes frequently is not practical.					
15) Therefore, elbow bumps may increase the risk of respiratory infection.					
16) I encourage people to cough or sneeze into tissue paper (then discard it), wash their hands immediately, or use a mask.					

Scale; Attitude toward hand hygiene and cough etiquette was measured using a 16-item Likert scale, with each item scored from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Items 2 and 3 were reverse scored. The total possible score ranged from 16 to 80, with higher scores indicating a more positive attitude. A total score above 60 (more than 75% of the maximum) was classified as a positive attitude, scores between 41 and 60 as neutral, and scores between 16 and 40 as negative.