

Editorial

Public Health Awareness and Preparedness of Covid-19: Where are we?

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Coronavirus 19 (Covid-19) has been everywhere, living with our own life. Since the emergence of this virus in February, 2020, the world has been hit by a pandemic affecting many aspects of life. As of the end of December 2020, over 4 million new Covid-19 cases and 72,000 new deaths were reported by World Health Organization (WHO) (1). In total, over 79 million reported cases and over 1.7 million deaths were occurred to date. The massive pandemic and worldwide transmission have been a reality that we have to be facing together. We are faced with new habits by using masks, washing our hands with soap and running water and maintaining a safe distance when interacting with others. For sure, there is a hope that we can do in dealing with the pandemic. As an inspirational quote from Helen Keller "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much", collaborative works that can break down barriers and pave the way for others (2).

Availability of coronavirus vaccine becomes an actual debate at the moment and open up further and immediately studies to explore and discover the efficacy and effectiveness of this intervention. 64 vaccines have been tested in clinical trial on human with 19 vaccines have been in the final stages of testing. About 85 preclinical vaccines are still under clinical trial in animals. A very sophisticated efforts that have been done and give an opportunity for us coping

the pandemics (3). Authorization for emergency use of the first Covid-19 vaccine has also been implemented for protecting people particularly among vulnerable people like health care professionals and elderly (4). This becomes a milestone for fight against the devastating pandemics of coronavirus.

Many researches are still underway, several drugs have also been under investigation for both treatment and prophylaxis of the Covid-19 as well as medical procedures for treating the patients. However, it has to be kept in mind that prevention and healthy behavior are still the prominent efforts to protect people from Covid-19 transmission. Cleaning the hand often using soap or alcohol-based hand rub, wearing a mask and maintaining a safe distance are still the effective ways to prevent the spread of Covid-19 (5). These are the costless shield combating the disease, public health intervention is the best cost containment interventions (6).

In this pandemic, we learned that prevention efforts are an important pillar of health problems, that the front line is the public health sector to prevent disease. Individual awareness to comply with health protocols is very important, to avoid increasing cases and causing the collapse of health services.

Ethical issues

Not applicable.

Competing interests

None.

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