



# Results on the Risk Perceptions of Healthcare Professionals (HCPs) in the management of Covid-19 pandemic – Evidence from a nationwide survey of the Healthcare Sector in Cyprus

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## *Introduction*

- World Health Organization (WHO) officially announced Covid-19 as a global pandemic in early March 2020.
- Our target: the risk perception of Healthcare Professionals (HCPs) involved in the treatment of Covid-19 cases in Cyprus
- Importance of Cyprus: it's geographical point acts as a hub connecting the very end of South-eastern Europe to the Middle East and Africa; this can be critical for the spread of the virus both in the country as well as outside it

## *Methodology*

- An online survey was conducted from mid-March to mid-May 2020
- A new tool (questionnaire) was developed, and delivered to frontline medical staff, in both the private and the public sector
- Our tool was validated by two experts, medical professionals and academic researchers in the fields of healthcare management and health and safety
- Questionnaire was initially introduced to a focus group of 8 HCPs with minor adjustments to follow

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## Results

- ✓ **116 responses** from HCPs
- ✓ Their **level of knowledge** regarding Covid-19 was **Neutral to Positive**
- ✓ As **International Knowledge** on the “fight” against Covid-19 positive cases was **increasing > Positive impact on the perception of risk** of the medical staff
- ✓ As knowledge was growing on the **symptoms & severity of the cases globally**, CY HCPs were **able to estimate the expected** cases to rise based on the EU Health Status of the country’s population
- ✓ **Common belief: personal protective equipment (PPE)** is the way to increase both occupational health and safety and patient safety
- ✓ **Risk Communication & Awareness** were critical to prevent the spread of the virus within the country (i.e. self-isolation, post-travel quarantine etc.)

## Conclusions



- **Unprecedented and quite Challenging times** both for the communities, but also for the daily practice that put all HCPs in direct danger
- **WHO - several guidelines & provided online courses and training** sessions free of charge to all HCPs and allied healthcare professionals around the world raise their awareness and preparedness regarding prevention and control of the virus
- The **Pandemic kicked in way before** relevant information was available from WHO and other national and international Public Health sources
- As a result, the **Risk perceptions of frontline HCPs varies substantially** amongst different countries around the world
- **Cyprus** showed **great reflexes under the circumstances** and hopefully will keep doing so now that the 2<sup>nd</sup> wave of Covid-19 is knocking on our doors

*Thank you for your participation and your attendance*

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