

# KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES, AND PRACTICES REGARDING COVID-19 PREVENTION AMONG MEDICAL STUDENTS OF CAN THO UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY

Phan Viet Hung\*, Tran Duc Long, Tran Cong Ly

Can Tho University of Medicine and Pharmacy

\*Corresponding author: pvhung@ctump.edu.vn

## ABSTRACT

**Background:** The COVID-19 pandemic has been affecting all over the world; medical students are a successor force, providing great support to the prevention of the COVID-19 pandemic. **Objectives:** to assess the completeness of knowledge, attitudes, and practices of COVID-19 prevention as well as utilize factors influencing the good practices of medical students at Can Tho University of Medicine and Pharmacy. **Materials and methods:** A 2-week cross-sectional study (from October 1 to October 15, 2021) was conducted among 729 of 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> – year medical students at Can Tho University of Medicine and Pharmacy through an online survey with a set of 36 questions. **Results:** The score of the Fear of COVID-19 Scale was moderately high ( $17.61 \pm 4.55$ ). The percentage of students with good general knowledge (overall score  $\geq 11$ ) was 56.2%. Approximately 97.5% of the participants had positive attitudes about complying with disease prevention measures. There were 94.2% of students had good practices with preventive measures. The study showed that 2 factors related to good practices were good sufficient knowledge and positive attitudes ( $p < 0.05$ ). Students with sufficient knowledge and positive attitudes performed better than students with insufficient knowledge and negative attitudes by 2.4 times (95% confidence interval: 1.18-4.8) and 7.2 times (95% confidence interval: 2.5-21.9), respectively. **Conclusions:** The majority of students had enough knowledge (56.2%), positive attitudes (97.5%) and good practices (94.2%) in COVID-19 prevention. High FCV-19S, females, sufficient knowledge, and positive attitudes had a significant correlation with good practices.

**Keywords:** Knowledge, attitudes, practices, COVID-19, prevention, FCV-19S