

**RESEARCH ARTICLE**

**Preventive Measures and Spread of COVID-19 Infection among Dental students in Basra in the First Period of the Epidemic in Iraq: An Online Cross-Sectional Survey**

**Sarah A. Haji<sup>1</sup>, Halah Abbas Husseien<sup>2</sup>, Ahmed Ali Al-Marash<sup>3</sup>,  
Hania Mohammed Salih Altawriy<sup>4</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, College of Dentistry, University of Basrah, Iraq.

<sup>2</sup>Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, College of Dentistry, University of Basrah, Iraq.

<sup>3</sup>Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, College of Dentistry, University of Basrah, Iraq.

<sup>4</sup>Basic Sciences Department, College of Dentistry, University of Basrah, Basrah, Iraq.

\*Corresponding Author E-mail: [sarah.haji@uobasrah.edu.iq](mailto:sarah.haji@uobasrah.edu.iq)

**ABSTRACT:**

This study was undertaken in the college of the Dentistry- University of Basra, Oral and maxillofacial surgery Department. This survey assessed protective measures regarding COVID-19 infection and aimed to evaluate the evidence on the affiliation between use of preventive measures and COVID-19 infection among dental students in Basra. The questionnaires were designed and assembled into two domains as follows: 1- Personal data including age, sex, and academic stage. 2- Analytical data including questions regarding infection rate among dental students and their commitment of COVID-19 preventive measures. An explanation for the aim of this study was coupled to the questionnaire, and the members were asked to sign an online informed permission. The questionnaires were directed toward 1000 dental students and only 875 were responding to the survey and included in the databank. The duration of study approximately takes 10 days, the questionnaire was conducted to students on February, 12th 2020 and the documents collecting were closed at (February, 22nd 2020). On the topic of preventive measures follow in order to avoid the dispersion of COVID-19 infection, an endemic feature of Corona virus disease has led to the deaths of thousands of individuals across several countries. For the prevention of the extent of the disease and its mortality, several preventive measures have been recommended. Conversely, the level of acquaintance and the implementation of such protective measures against COVID-19 among dental students in Basra which constitute vulnerable group are yet to be evaluated. Eight-hundred and seventy-five questionnaires were analysed. Out of the 875 participants, (250) were males, and (675) were females. Two hundred and sixty-one (29.8%) participants had been infected with covid -19, and six hundred and fourteen (70%) were not being infected. Regarding the correlation between the infection with COVID-19 and the sex and college stage, consequently, no substantial statistical differences were detected between the males and females amongst COVID infected students. This survey demonstrated that the terms of self-protective means in addition to community disaffection will be considerably drops the statistics of dental student's COVID infections.

**KEYWORDS:** COVID-19 Epidemic, Infection, Dental Students, cross-Sectional, Iraq.

**INTRODUCTION:**

COVID-19 celebrated as novel corona virus which causing acute illness with severe indications and it is denote the causative agent of a communicable and potentially lethal illness<sup>1,2</sup>. At the end of December 2019, happened an hospital admission for a number of personalities who merely diagnosed as pneumonia of an unidentified aetiology. There is an epidemiological link between these patients and a wholesale market for