Oral Defense Announcement
University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Nursing Practice with an emphasis in Family Nurse Practitioner

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Attitudes Toward SARS-CoV-2 in Frontline Healthcare Workers and First Responders

Date: July 7, 2021
Time: 9:40 – 10:15 am
Place: Remote

Abstract

Problem: To date, little evidence exists to understand attitudes of SARS-CoV-2 in frontline healthcare workers (HCW) and first responders (FR), related to best practices in mitigating virus spread. The purpose of this project was to assess attitudes toward COVID-19 in young adults, ages 18-44 years old, who are frontline workers related to their adherence to PPE guidelines, social distancing, hand hygiene, community exposures, and vaccinations.

Methods: A descriptive survey design using five-point Likert scale questions and 26 open-ended questions and was implemented one-year after onset of the pandemic. A purposive sample working in a large, urban, Midwest metropolitan area was recruited to participate.

Results: A total of 176 survey responses were completed by frontline healthcare workers (n = 158) and first responders (n = 18). A significant positive correlation was observed amongst agreements to mask mandates and social distancing ($r_s = 0.35$, $p < .001$), agreements to social distance and receive vaccinations ($r_s = 0.16$, $p = .042$), and experiencing an emotional impact from COVID-19 and agreeing to vaccinate ($r_s = 0.24$, $p = .002$). Over one year into the pandemic, 86% of frontline workers agree with the need to receive a COVID-19 prevention vaccine.

Implications for Practice: While COVID-19 vaccines were first presented to essential workers, their influence and encouragement spreads to their fellow friends and family which in turn, can impact vaccination willingness and ultimately rates.

Defense of Dissertation Committee
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