

Table 3 Responses to the knowledge questions (n = 1541), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 2016

Question	Correct answer	Accurate responses	
		No.	%
What is Middle East respiratory syndrome "corona infection"?	A viral respiratory illness caused by a corona virus.	1184	76.8
When and where, corona infection was first identified?	In 2012, in Saudi Arabia.	602	39.1
How spread out is corona infection throughout the world?	It has been reported in multiple countries worldwide.	679	44.1
How severe is the infection by corona?	It is variable ranging from mild to severe disease. Some infected individuals may be asymptomatic.	582	37.8
What are the typical symptoms of corona infection?	Fever, cough, difficulty in respiration and occasionally diarrhoea.	1216	78.9
What is the incubation period (time from infection to symptom onset)?	The average is 5 days (2–14 days)	307	19.9
Is infection by corona contagious?	Yes to a limited degree.	221	14.3
If you think corona infection is contagious, what are the potential routes of infection transmission?	Animals, infected family members and from patients to health care professionals.	932	60.5
In your opinion where do infected cases cluster most?	In the health care setting.	710	46.1
How do people get infected with corona?	It is not yet fully understood how people become infected with corona.	182	11.8
What is the source of infection by corona?	Camels	1120	72.7
What are the common causes for spread of infection by corona?	Overcrowding, delay in diagnosis and poor infection control practices.	854	55.4
What precautions should be taken to avoid getting infected by corona?	According to the latest medical consensus, it is advised to wash hands with water and soap or with other disinfectants, especially after coughing, sneezing and using toilets. Use a handkerchief when coughing or sneezing to cover your mouth and nose. Avoid touching your mouth, nose and eyes before washing your hands and avoid eating raw meat, liver and raw or unpasteurized milk.	1034	67.1
Is it safe to consume raw or insufficiently cooked animal products, including dairy products and meat?	Camel meat and camel milk are nutritious products that one can continue to consume after pasteurization, cooking or other heat treatments.	449	29.1
Is it safe to visit farms, markets, or camel fairs?	Yes: with precautions, including regular hand-washing before and after touching animals and avoiding contact with sick animals.	904	58.7
Does the WHO impose restrictions on travel or trade due to corona infection?	The WHO does not recommend travel or trade restrictions with regard to corona infection.	278	18.0
Is there a vaccine against corona infection? What is the treatment?	There are no vaccines and no specific treatment available. Treatment is supportive.	491	31.9
What is the fatality rate of corona infection?	The infection is fatal in 35% of the cases.	388	25.2
Which groups are likely to have severe disease?	Patients with diabetes, renal failure, chronic lung disease and immunodeficiency.	866	56.2
Regarding corona infection in children ...	They are less likely get the infection compared with adults.	317	20.6
What precautions should health care professional take to prevent the transmission of corona infection when dealing with patients?	Universal precautions should be applied with all patients. In confirmed or suspected cases, respiratory precautions, eye protection and	282	55.3*

*Result for participants from the health colleges only.