

Supplementary Table 1. Healthy literacy score assessed by HLS-COVID-Q22 scale among participants (n=520).

S.No	How easy or difficult is it for you to ...	Very difficult (1)	Difficult (2)	Easy (3)	Very easy (4)	NA (0)	Mean(SD)
1	Find information about the coronavirus on the internet?	99(19)	241(46.3)	114(21.9)	9(1.7)	57(11)	1.84(.95)
2	Find information on the internet about protective behaviours that can help to prevent infection with the coronavirus?	83(16)	262(50.4)	112(21.5)	8(1.5)	55(10.6)	1.88(.92)
3	Find information in newspapers, magazines and on TV about behaviours that can help to prevent infection with the coronavirus?	66(12.7)	223(42.9)	223(42.9)	8(1.5)		2.33(.71)
4	Find information on how to recognize if I have likely become infected with the coronavirus?	48(9.2)	279(53.7)	187(36)	6(1.2)		2.29(.64)
5	Find information on how to find professional help in case of coronavirus infection?	34(6.5)	283(54.4)	196(37.7)	7(1.3)		2.34(.62)
6	Find information on how I much I am at risk for being infected with the coronavirus?	48(9.2)	301(57.9)	164(31.5)	7(1.3)		2.25(.63)
7	Understand your doctor's, pharmacist's or nurse's instructions on protective measures against coronavirus infection?	24(4.6)	178(34.2)	299(57.5)	19(3.7)		2.60(.64)
8	Understand recommendations of authorities regarding protective measures against coronavirus infection?	15(2.9)	163(31.3)	259(49.8)	83(16)		2.79(.74)
9	Understand advice from family members or friends regarding protective measures against coronavirus infection?	16(3.1)	184(35.4)	261(50.2)	59(11.3)		2.70(.71)
10	Understand information in the media on how to protect myself against coronavirus infection?	50(9.6)	241(46.3)	224(43.1)	5(1)		2.35(.66)
11	Understand risks of the coronavirus that I find on the internet?	41(7.9)	310(59.6)	121(23.3)	21(4)	27(5.2)	2.23(.65)
12	Understand risks of the coronavirus that I find in newspapers, magazines or on TV?	56(10.8)	239(46)	217(41.7)	8(1.5)		2.34(.69)
13	Judge if information on the coronavirus and the coronavirus epidemic in the media is reliable?	65(12.5)	313(60.2)	138(26.5)	4(8)		2.16(.63)

14	Judge which behaviours are associated with a higher risk of coronavirus infection?	16(3.1)	271(52.1)	195(37.5)	38(7.3)	2.49(.68)
15	Judge what protective measures you can apply to prevent a coronavirus infection?	55(10.6)	243(46.7)	217(41.7)	5(1)	2.33(.67)
16	Judge how much I am at risk for a coronavirus infection?	30(5.8)	360(69.2)	126(24.2)	4(0.8)	2.20(.54)
17	Judge if I have been infected with coronavirus?	13(2.5)	334(64.2)	146(28.1)	27(5.2)	2.36(.62)
18	Decide how you can protect yourself from coronavirus infection based on information in the media?	48(9.2)	279(53.7)	189(36.3)	4(0.8)	2.29(.64)
19	Follow instructions from your doctor or pharmacist regarding how to handle the coronavirus situation?	19(3.7)	224(43.1)	266(51.2)	11(2.1)	2.52(.61)
20	Use information the doctor gives you to decide how to handle an infection with the coronavirus?	19(3.7)	229(44)	259(49.8)	13(2.5)	2.51(.61)
21	Use media information to decide how to handle an infection with the coronavirus?	24(4.6)	297(57.1)	192(36.9)	7(1.3)	2.35(.59)
22	To behave in a way to avoid infecting others?	28(5.4)	295(56.7)	191(36.7)	6(1.2)	2.34(.60)

Supplementary Table 2. Participant's personal preventive behaviors against COVID-19 in past 7 days (n=520)

	COVID 19 awareness	Never (0)	Seldom (1)	Sometimes (2)	Often (3)	Mean (SD)
1	Wash hands before eating	1(0.2)	44(8.5)	131(25.2)	344(66.2)	2.57(0.65)
2	Wash hands after using the toilet	2(0.4)	21(4)	89(17.1)	408(78.5)	2.74(0.54)
3	Wear a surgical mask when going out	102(19.6)	141(27.1)	169(32.5)	105(20.2)	1.54(1.03)
4	Wear a fabric mask when going out	5(1)	64(12.3)	209(40.2)	242(46.5)	2.32(0.72)
5	Wash hands with alcohol-based sanitizers	84(16.2)	181(34.8)	166(31.9)	89(17.1)	1.50(0.96)
6	Add water/bleach to household drainage system	103(19.8)	228(43.8)	141(27.1)	48(9.2)	1.26(0.88)
7	Keep distance from people in public areas (e.g., 1.5 m)	24(4.6)	143(27.5)	262(50.4)	91(17.5)	1.81(0.77)
8	Reduce social contact with relatives/friends/neighbours	50(9.6)	132(25.4)	275(52.9)	63(12.1)	1.68(0.81)
9	Use alcohol/bleach to clean daily necessities	128(24.6)	217(41.7)	144(27.7)	31(6)	1.15(0.86)