



## KNOWLEDGE AND PREVENTION OF COVID-19 BY AIRCRAFT PASSENGERS IN RIAU PROVINCE

Lius Parna<sup>1</sup>, Nila Kusumawati<sup>2</sup>, Putri Eka Sudiarti<sup>3</sup>, Alini<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1,2,3,4</sup> School of Nursing, University of Pahlawan Tuanku Tambusai  
putriekasugiarti@gmail.com

**Objective:** This study is aimed to find out the knowledge of aircraft passengers and the preventive measures taken by airplane passengers when traveling internationally during the COVID-19 period. **Method:** The research method used is a qualitative method with a narrative descriptive technique. The respondents are airplane passengers who had traveled abroad between January and March, 2020. **Technique sampling** of this study is snowball sampling. The respondents in the study amounted to 10 people. The technique of collecting data was through interviews using an audio recorder. **Data analysis** used is thematic analysis. **Result:** The result shows that there were several themes of aircraft passenger knowledge, namely definitions, signs of symptoms, transmission, and preventing COVID-19. The efforts to prevent COVID-19 carried out by aircraft passengers include using masks, hand sanitizers, doing physical distancing, and washing hands. **Conclusion:** The conclusion of this study knowledge possessed by airplane passengers regarding COVID-19 is still inadequate so it is hoped that the government will be more responsive in responding to COVID-19.

**Keywords:** Knowledge, Aircraft Passengers, Prevention Efforts, COVID-19.

### Introduction

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared that COVID-19 is a pandemic or a global epidemic. COVID-19 is a large family of viruses that cause diseases ranging from mild to severe symptoms. COVID-19 is a new type that has never been previously identified in humans. COVID-19 is large, 400-500 micro in diameter. COVID-19 does not float in the air but attaches to objects or limbs. COVID-19 is transmitted through droplets or saliva particles when a person sneezes or coughs<sup>1</sup>.

As of April 27, 2020, 210 countries in the world have tested positive for COVID-19 with a total of 3.056.787 million cases. In April 2020, the United States had become the country with the highest number of COVID-19 cases, amounting to 560.433 million people, followed by Spain with 1.005.808 million cases<sup>2</sup>. On April 27, 2020, the number of positive cases of COVID-19 reached 9.009 cases, and the number of deaths was 765. Around 13 positive cases of COVID-19 were recorded as imported cases or those with a history of travel to countries affected by COVID-19<sup>3</sup>.

Riau Province is one of the provinces in Indonesia that has been affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Since April 27, 2020, around 14.071 thousand residents in Riau Province have become people under surveillance (ODP) and 251 patients under surveillance (PDP). The 251 PDPs, 39 people tested positive for COVID-19. Although the number of ODP and PDP in Riau Province continues to increase until the beginning of April 2020. Local governments still have not implemented an area and airport lockdown system as has been done by many countries in the world to break the chain of the spread of COVID-19 in Riau Province<sup>4</sup>.

The airport is one of the places where COVID-19 is transmitted because it operates to serve a number of flights. Sultan Syarif Qasim II Airport in Riau Province is still running flight routes from and to Malaysia and Singapore and other countries<sup>5</sup>. Aircraft are also known to be one of the causes of the rapid spread of COVID-19. This happens because of the interaction between passengers on the plane. In



- one flight cabin crew and airplane passengers will get out of the airplane seat to use the toilet. If a passenger or one of the cabin crew on the flight is infected with COVID-19 and walks to the toilet alternately, it can spread the virus to the people they are traveling through or when they take turns using the same toilet<sup>6</sup>.

When COVID-19 started affecting several countries, the outbreak had not yet spread to Indonesia. Indonesian people still travel internationally in order to avoid infectious diseases and not pass them on to other people, one must know about these diseases and their prevention. The attitude of the people who do not care about this disease outbreak and do not think they will be infected by this disease also causes them to still travel internationally<sup>7</sup>. This study aims to determine the knowledge of aircraft passengers and the preventive measures taken by airplane passengers when traveling internationally during the COVID-19 period.

## Method

This research used qualitative methods with a descriptive narrative approach. Respondents in this study were airplane passengers who had traveled abroad in January-March 2020. The inclusion criteria in the study sample were conscious passengers who had traveled abroad between January-March 2020, capable aircraft passengers. The participants were those who could communicate and were willing to be respondents. The sample technique used was snowball sampling. Respondents in the study amounted to 10 people. The data were collected through semi structured phone interviews for 30-45 minutes / interviewed respondents. Data analysis technique used was thematic analysis consisting of coding, data classification, categories, making research reports in draft form and validating the data.

## Results

### A. Aircraft Passenger Knowledge

#### 1. Definition of COVID-19

Six out of ten respondents said that COVID-19 is a disease that was easily transmitted and originates from Wuhan,

this is as stated by respondents (Es-20-Japan), (Yyn-58-Malaysia) namely "As far as COVID-19 is concerned a virus that can be transmitted and easily spreads through the air. "COVID-19 is a corona, right? The virus that came from China, if I'm not mistaken,".

#### 2. Signs and symptoms

All respondents said that the symptoms of COVID-19 were cough, fever, flu and shortness of breath as revealed by several respondents (Ypl-20-Malaysia), (Kl-24-Malaysia), (Es-20-Japan), namely "His body temperature rises, shortness of breath, the flu anyway."

#### 3. Mode of transmission

Seven out of ten respondents said that the mode of transmission of COVID-19 is through droplets or droplets when someone is talking or coughing and sneezing, this was similar. With what was expressed by respondents (Nk-37 Malaysia and the Philippines) "" Ehh, the transmission is through droplets, for example coughing or sneezing, then the droplets contain the virus so that they are inhaled by other people and through objects in other public facilities

#### 4. How to prevent

All respondents said that the prevention method used was to use a mask and some respondents washed their hands and kept their distance from each other, as stated by the respondent, namely (Ad-22-Malaysia) "" Emm, if your personal preference is to wear masks everywhere , diligently wash your hands once an hour, bring a tissue and a hand sanitizer

### B. Preventive Measures by Aircraft Passengers

#### 1. Masks

All respondents said that the preventive efforts they took while traveling internationally were only using masks as expressed by several respondents, namely (Es-20-Japan) "" Just wear a mask from home to the airport and on the plane you also have to wear a mask too " and (Na-33-Thailand) "" Just wear a mask "



Wash hands

Some respondents said that prevention efforts were only using masks and washing hands, as expressed by several respondents, namely (Er-22-Malaysia)" "The effort is to wash your hands frequently, continue to wear masks ".

Physical distancing

Only two respondents said that the preventive efforts they took during international travel were wearing masks, washing hands and physical distancing as revealed by the following respondent (Sn-40-Malaysia). My Chinese people stayed away from their crowd at that time, the news was originally from China, I was looking for the back seat before boarding, I stayed away from them. "

Hand Sanitizer

Two respondents said that the efforts they made to prevent COVID-19 while traveling internationally were only using masks and carrying hand sanitizers, washing hands as expressed by respondent (Ad-22-Malaysia), namely `` Emm, if you prefer to personally, definitely wear a mask everywhere, diligently wash your hands, bring hand sanitizers.

## Discussion

### A. Aircraft Passenger Knowledge

From the results of the study, most respondents said that COVID-19 is a disease that is easily transmitted and originated from Wuhan China, this is in accordance with the definition of COVID-19 issued by WHO. The level of knowledge assessed to be able to determine a person's health status, this study was in accordance with the theory put forward. Knowledge, attitudes, and values were factors that determine a person's health status and experience or knowledge that a person has a factor that plays a major role in interpreting stimulus obtained<sup>10</sup>.

From the research results, it was found that most respondents knew the signs and

symptoms of COVID-19, namely fever, dry cough and difficulty breathing. Only a small proportion of respondents could not correctly say the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 according to what has been issued by WHO. If someone has or knows a condition (signs and symptoms) this should be a benchmark for someone to do something. This study showed that the presence of symptoms was a response from the body of a living being as an abnormal body condition due to certain reasons<sup>10</sup>.

### B. Aircraft Passenger Prevention Measures

From the results of the study, it was found that all respondents who only wore masks as a preventive measure and three respondents who wore masks, hand sanitizers, carried out hand washing and physical distancing as efforts they made to prevent COVID-19 while traveling internationally. Although public awareness and knowledge was high about health, the practice of health or healthy life behavior in society was still very low<sup>10</sup>

## Conclusion

The knowledge possessed by airplane passengers regarding COVID-19 was still inadequate so it is hoped that the government will be more responsive in responding to COVID-19 when COVID-19 has just emerged in Indonesia.

## Acknowledgements

This study would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Riau Kasim Syarif Airport, all respondents and parties involved in this research.

## References

1. WHO. (2020). *Report situasional COVID-19*. Diakses tanggal 11 maret- 15 april 2020.
2. Worldometer. (2020). *Corona virus pandemic*. Diakses tanggal 12 maret- 17 april 2020.
3. Kemenkes RI, (2020). *Gugus tugas percepatan penanganan COVID-19*. Diakses tanggal 17 maret- 05 april 2020.





2. Diarang mengemukakan dan memperbanyak sebagian atau seluruh karya tulis ini dalam bentuk apapun tanpa izin Universitas Riau.
4. Depkes Provinsi Riau, (2020). *Informasi COVID-19*. Diakses tanggal 24 maret- 05 april 2020.
- a. Kompas, (2020). *Berita terupdate COVID-19*. Diakses 13 maret 2020.
- b. Kompas, (2020). *Cara tetap waspada tetapi tidak panik di tengah wabah COVID-19*. Diakses 17 april 2020.
- c. CNN.indonesia, (2020). *Gaya hidup melawan COVID-19*. Diakses tanggal 13 maret 2020.
- d. CNN.indonesia, (2020). *Ratusan Ribu Kasus COVID-19 RI Tak Terdeteksi*. Diakses tanggal 27 maret 2020.
- e. CNN.indonesia, (2020). *Resiko Corona Dianggap Rendah, Orang Tetap Bandel Keluar Rumah*. Diakses tanggal 17 april 2020.
- f. Notoatmodjo, (2010). *Ilmu perilaku kesehatan*. Penerbit Rineka Cipta : jakarta.