

QU SESRI survey to explore awareness and attitudes towards COVID-19

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The Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (SESRI) at Qatar University is conducting a COVID-19 survey to update the knowledge about Qatari nationals and resident expatriates' awareness and attitudes towards COVID-19.

The research will be done randomly over the phone with a sample size of 2,100 selected citizens and residents. The month-long survey will conclude on May 30.

In an interview with *The Peninsula*, Professor Abdoulaye Diop, Research Professor and Manager of SESRI's Research Department, and the project lead said the survey is part of the Qatar Semi-Annual Survey (QSAS). He is assisted by Dr. Kien T. Le and Dr. Salma Khafad.

Qatari nationals and resident expatriates (white-collar and blue-collar expatriates) 18 years of age or older are

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update our knowledge about Qatari nationals and resident expatriates' awareness and attitudes towards COVID-19. It is a follow-up to the previous COVID-19 awareness survey conducted in March 2020. The sample is about 2,100 (700 Qatari nationals, 700 white-collar expatriates, and 700 blue-collar expatriates)," he added.

The survey would cover vaccinated and non-vaccinated people to get a clear picture of the virus trend.

"The survey covers potential respondents at different stages of vaccination – fully vaccinated people (people who have already received both doses); people who are partially vaccinated (people who received their first dose and awaiting the second one); people who are registered and waiting for an appointment, and those not vaccinated," Prof. Diop added.

In March last year, at the start of the pandemic, SESRI

surveyed awareness of the new COVID-19 disease.

The findings helped the government and the health sector implement policies that helped Qatar manage the virus better.

Qatar's COVID-19 response has been widely hailed in the region and globally for its proactive measure, quarantine polices and vaccination programme.

The survey will provide information for a better understanding of the attitudes of Qatari nationals and resident expatriates about COVID-19 measures taken in Qatar to control the spread of the virus, including the vaccination efforts.

The survey also asks questions about the impact of the virus at the individual and household levels, including effects on health, finances, education, and working environment. Respondents are also asked about their attitudes towards the vaccine.

eligible to participate in this survey.

Interviews are conducted by trained and experienced interviewers from the Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (SESRI) using social distancing protocols in the Call Center or the remote interviewing system developed by SESRI IT," Prof. Diop said.

"QSAS provides valuable information to decision-makers, politicians, scholars, and students about the general mood of the residents of Qatar. This wave of the QSAS aims to

QF convocation to celebrate new wave of change-makers

THE PENINSULA – DOHA

More than 1,600 young graduates are to celebrate their achievements and look to the future together in a special virtual edition of Qatar Foundation's Convocation ceremony.

Taking place in virtual form due to public health measures designed to combat COVID-19, the convocation will celebrate the graduates of the Classes of 2020 and 2021 of Qatar Foundation (QF) member Hamad bin Khalifa University and QF's international partner universities – whose academic excellence and personal growth has been accompanied by a spirit of resilience as they completed their studies amid a global pandemic.

The interactive and immerse live online event on May 27 will see students who have pursued their goals, honed their talents, and equipped themselves to be drivers of change during their time within QF's unique ecosystem of education mark the end of one phase of their lives, and the start of the next stage of their journey.

"Through learning, exploring, and growing within QF's globally unique educational environment, these talented, creative, driven young people are graduating in the knowledge that they are as well-equipped to face whatever the future holds, and make a difference to their communities and the world, as any group of graduates anywhere," said Francisco Marmolejo, President of Higher Education at QF.

"In their time at Education City, they have nurtured the real-world skills that prepare them for the workforce of today and tomorrow; broadened their minds, perspectives, and horizons; recognised their potential and dedicated themselves to realising it; and been inspired to become what we call 'students of change'.

"Studying and graduating during a pandemic has presented these graduates with many challenges, and the way they have overcome them will serve them well them for years

The convocation will celebrate the graduates of the Classes of 2020 and 2021 of Qatar Foundation member Hamad bin Khalifa University and QF's international partner universities.

to come.

"Their resilience, positivity, and devotion to knowledge and excellence deepens the sense of pride that will accompany QF's virtual convocation ceremony this year, as we celebrate the latest additions to our ranks of alumni – young people who possess the skills and mindsets the world needs, perhaps more now than ever; and who, wherever their path takes them, will always be part of QF."

The dynamic virtual convocation ceremony will see 2020 and 2021 graduates of each of QF's universities speaking live about their experiences and their plans for the future, with parents also joining the conversation.

A special convocation film will be screened, as graduates look back on how they tackled challenges that have faced them in recent years, and the event will also allow students to engage with a QF Alumni Ambassador as they join the organisation's ever-growing global alumni network.

Throughout the program, social media posts from graduates, their friends and family, and members of the public will be displayed, while images of every graduate will be merged into a photo mosaic that reflects how they have all been part of a community of knowledge at QF.

QF's virtual Convocation ceremony will take place from 6.30pm to 7.15pm Doha time on May 27, and all members of the community are invited to tune in and help celebrate the accomplishments of its Classes of 2020 and 2021. It will be screened live on QF's website at www.qf.org.qa/convocation

Over 57% receive at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine

THE PENINSULA – DOHA

More than 57 percent of the eligible population has received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in Qatar, said the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), yesterday.

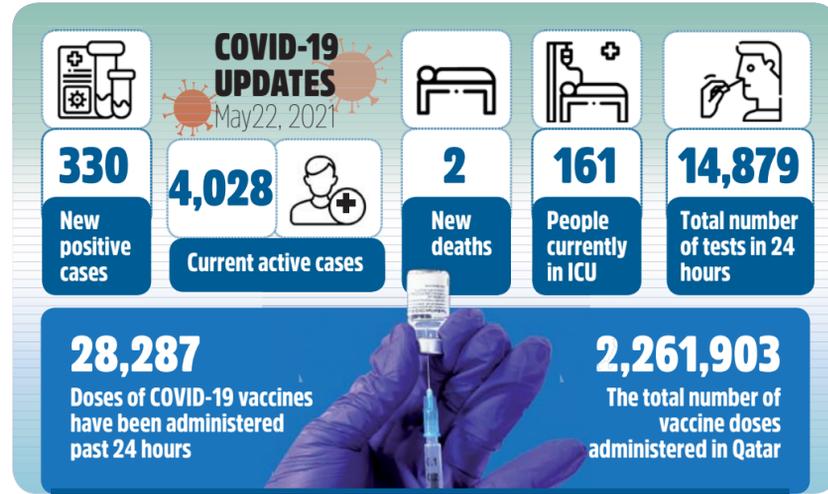
Also 90.4% of the elderly over the age of 60 - who are considered among the groups most vulnerable to severe complications due to infection with the COVID-19 virus - received at least one dose of the vaccine, while 84.7% of them received both doses of the vaccine.

Some 28,287 doses of COVID-19 vaccines were given during the past 24 hours taking the total doses of vaccines given to community members since the beginning of the vaccination programme to 2,261,903.

The Ministry has reported 330 new cases of COVID-19 yesterday. Among them 130 were travellers returning from abroad.

A total of 439 people recovered from COVID-19 yesterday, bringing the total number of people recovered in Qatar 210,589.

The Ministry also



announced two new deaths, aged 59 and 66 years of age. Both of them had chronic diseases and all of them received necessary medical care. All were receiving the necessary medical care.

The Ministry also said that in recent weeks the combined impact of COVID-19 restrictions and increasing vaccination rates, and the overwhelming

support of the community, has resulted in a consistent reduction in the number of new daily infections in the country.

However, it is still important to be cautious as the second wave is not yet over and there are still two highly contagious and highly virulent strains of the virus that are actively circulating in the community.

The plan to gradually lift

restrictions will be delivered over 4 phases with each phase lasting 3 weeks.

The date of implementation and the duration of each phase will depend on the epidemic indicators which depend to a great extent on the degree of compliance of the community members with the current measures, restrictions and guidance by the government.

AMNM announces partnership agreement with GlobeMed Qatar

THE PENINSULA – DOHA

Alfardan Medical with Northwestern Medicine (AMNM), Qatar's state-of-the-art medical and day surgery centre, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with GlobeMed Qatar, the leading Healthcare Benefits Management company in Qatar.

As a Third Party Administrator (TPA), GlobeMed Qatar serves the portfolios of over eight insurance companies in Qatar, offering their members access to a wide network of healthcare providers.

Through this partnership, beneficiaries of any of the insurance companies serviced by GlobeMed Qatar can now benefit from AMNM's advanced, patient-centric healthcare and latest medical equipment. Reimagining the future of healthcare in Qatar and beyond, AMNM provides high-quality, multidisciplinary medical care, and patient service.

AMNM's world-class healthcare applies an American model of care, with a focus on advanced medicine practices, backed by a patient-centric approach, transparency, and teamwork that is evident in the services provided.

The sophisticated healthcare services are powered by a multinational collective of specialised medical staff and professionals from leading markets, including a large contingent from the US spanning across medical specialities, including ear, nose and throat, dentistry, dermatology, gastroenterology, internal medicine, ophthalmology, orthopedics, plastic surgery, fertility medicine and



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gynecology, physical medicine and rehabilitation, sleep medicine and executive health. Other AMNM medical specialities that will be introduced in the future include pediatrics, psychiatry and psychology.

Omar Hussain Alfardan, President and CEO of Alfardan Group (AFG), said, "Alfardan

Group boasts over 65 years of legacy in delivering world-class premium experiences, with the guiding principles of quality, luxury and service excellence. Our partnership with GlobeMed will provide their members with access to the high-quality, advanced, and innovate healthcare services that are

offered at AMNM.

"Having just recently opened in Lusail, we are steadily expanding the scope of our insurance coverage to ensure the high-calibre medical care available at AMNM is accessible to as many communities as possible".

"We are delighted that our mission to deliver advanced, patient-centric care with service excellence, continues to be recognized by strategic stakeholders in the medical industry who are partnering with us to continue to drive the quality of healthcare forward," he added.

The introduction of AMNM in Qatar marks Alfardan Group's first venture in the healthcare sector. Located in the heart of Lusail City, AMNM

BPS celebrates World Hand Hygiene Day

THE PENINSULA – DOHA

Birla Public School (BPS) celebrated 'World Hand Hygiene Day' on May 5, 2021 declaring the message, 'Save Lives- Clean Your Hands' - the most appropriate theme for the Day.

The activities of World Hand Hygiene Day at Birla Public School highlighted the significance of maintaining global promotion, visibility, and sustainability of hand hygiene in health care. The main idea of observing the day was to recognise hand washing as one of the most effective actions that can be taken to avoid a huge range of infections including the COVID-19 pandemic.

A special virtual interactive session was organised with the Birla Kindergarteners. The facilitators enlightened the students about the importance of maintaining continuous personal hygiene.

The students were inspired to clean their hands thoroughly with the activities planned for the day. The students were also encouraged to prepare posters related to hand hygiene and awareness of the importance of handwashing was emphasised. The response from students through posters and pictures was overwhelming.

Students under the able guidance of the teachers in the EVS Department and English Department participated in the varied activities like hand washing- chart making, composing jingles and many more.