

PROFILE OF COVID POSITIVE HEALTH CARE WORKERS IN A TERTIARY CARE CENTRE IN CENTRAL KERALA

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Background: The worst hit of the covid19 pandemic was on health care workers who are the frontline warriors. A thorough understanding of the profile of Covid-19 positive health care workers is important as part of hospital prevention policy. **Objective:** To describe the profile of Covid -9 positive health care workers in a tertiary care centre in Central Kerala. **Methods:** The study included 294 health care workers who turned Covid-19 positive in a tertiary care centre in central Kerala during the last quarter of 2020. Data collected using an interview schedule through phone. **Results:** Majority of the Covid-19 positive HCWs were females(77%). Among them the maximum number of cases were reported among staff nurses who had close contact with the patients (92), followed by doctors.(80). More than 90% of the HCWs had adequate knowledge regarding infection control and 92% of HCWs used appropriate PPE. But 62% of HCWs gives history suggestive of possible hospital source of infection All HCWs, including those with comorbidities had uneventful recovery. **Conclusion:** The study showed that chance of HCW becoming covid positive is very high in work place in spite of appropriate PPE usage. As hospitals are areas of high viral load, the infection control practices should be reinforced there which includes appropriate PPE usage, but avoiding crowding, frequent cleaning of high touched areas and proper ventilation of OPs and wards