

Supplementary Table 1: Comparison of demographic characteristics between Iranian and Chinese respondents (N= 1411)

Demographic characteristics	Iran (N=550)	China (N=861)	Chi-square (χ^2)	p-value	LSD (Bonferroni Correction for multiple comparisons)
	N (%)	N (%)			
Gender					
Male	149 (27.1)	215 (25)	0.788	$p=0.38$	
Female	401 (72.9)	646 (75)			
Age range					
1.12-21.4 years	159(28.9)	358(41.6)	200.580	$p<0.001^{**}$ *	1vs3
2.21.4-30.8 years	151(27.5)	400(46.5)			1vs4
3.30.8-40.2 years	143(26.0)	37 (4.3)			1vs5
4.40.2-49.6 years	65(11.8)	51 (5.9)			2vs3
5.>49.6 years	32(5.8)	15 (1.7)			2vs4
					2vs5;3vs4
					$p < 0.005$
Status as a parent					
1.Has a child 16 years or below	179 (32.6)	151 (17.5)	179.344	$p<0.001^{**}$ *	1vs2
2.Has a child older than 16 years	87 (15.8)	440 (51.1)			2vs3
3.No children	284 (51.6)	270 (31.4)			$p < 0.0167$
Household size					
1.6 people or more	66 (12)	124 (14.4)	134.239	$p<0.001^{**}$ *	1vs3
2.3-5 people	352 (64)	692 (80.3)			1vs4
3.2 people	55 (10)	41 (4.8)			2vs3
4.Stay alone	77(14)	4 (0.5)			2vs4
					3vs4
					$p < 0083$
Educational level					
1.Primary school or below	4 (0.7)	10 (1.2)	81.568	$p<0.001^{**}$ *	1vs5
2.Secondary school	21 (3.8)	97 (11.3)			2vs3
3.University – Bachelor	371 (67.5)	636 (73.8)			2vs4
4.University – Master	108 (19.6)	109 (12.7)			2vs5
5.University – Doctorate	46 (8.4)	9 (1.0)			3vs4
					3vs5;4vs5
					$p < 005$
Employment status					
1.Student	235 (42.7)	541 (62.9)	69.762	$p<0.001^{**}$ *	1vs3
2.Unemployed	31 (5.6)	51 (5.9)			1vs4
3.Housewife	42 (7.6)	26 (3.0)			1vs5
4.Retired	12 (2.2)	3 (0.3)			2vs3
5.Employed	230 (41.9)	240 (27.9)			2vs4
					4vs5
					$p < 005$

* $p<0.05$, ** $p<0.01$, *** $p<0.001$

Supplementary Table 2. Comparison of physical symptoms related to COVID-19, health status and contact history between Iranian and Chinese respondents (N= 1411)

Physical symptoms and health status	Iran (N=550)	China (N=861)	Chi-square (χ^2)	p-value	LSD (Bonferroni Correction for multiple comparisons)
	N(%)	N(%)			
Persistent Fever					
Yes	25 (4.5)	1 (0.1)	36.403	<i>p</i> <0.001***	
No	525 (95.5)	860 (99.9)			
Chills					
Yes	30 (5.5)	12 (1.4)	19.163	<i>p</i> <0.001***	
No	520 (94.5)	849 (98.6)			
Headache					
Yes	183 (33.3)	45 (5.2)	194.860	<i>p</i> <0.001***	
No	367 (66.7)	816 (94.8)			
Myalgia					
Yes	83 (15.1)	57 (6.6)	26.944	<i>p</i> <0.001***	
No	467 (84.9)	804 (93.4)			
Cough					
Yes	109 (19.8)	28 (3.3)	105.062	<i>p</i> <0.001***	
No	441 (80.2)	833 (96.7)			
Breathing difficulty					
Yes	49 (8.9)	6 (0.7)	60.422	<i>p</i> <0.001***	
No	501 (91.1)	855 (99.3)			
Dizziness					
Yes	57 (10.4)	31 (3.6)	26.251	<i>p</i> <0.001***	
No	493 (89.6)	830 (96.4)			
Coryza					
Yes	80 (14.5)	46 (5.3)	34.951	<i>p</i> <0.001***	
No	470 (85.5)	815 (94.7)			
Sore throat					
Yes	104 (18.9)	32 (3.7)	88.941	<i>p</i> <0.001***	
No	446 (81.1)	829 (96.3)			
Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea					
Yes	52 (9.5)	7 (0.8)	62.553	<i>p</i> <0.001***	
No	498 (90.5)	854 (99.2)			
Consultation with a doctor in an outpatient clinic in the last 14 days					
Yes	53 (9.6)	13 (1.5)	49.709	<i>p</i> <0.001***	
No	497 (90.4)	848 (98.5)			
Current self-rating of health status					
1.Very poor or poor	14 (2.5)	14 (1.6)	10.550	<i>p</i> <0.01**	2vs3 <i>p</i> < 0.0167
2.Average	138 (25.1)	283 (32.9)			
3.Good or very good	398 (72.4)	564 (65.5)			
Chronic illness					
Yes	48 (8.7)	43 (5.0)	7.752	<i>p</i> <0.01**	
No	502 (91.3)	818 (95.0)			
Medical insurance					
Yes	494 (89.8)	785 (91.2)	0.727	<i>p</i> =0.394	
No	56 (10.2)	76 (8.8)			

Direct contact with patients with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19				
Yes	8 (1.5)	2 (0.2)	7.125	<i>P</i> <0.01**
No	542 (98.5)	859 (99.8)		
Indirect contact with patients with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19				
Yes	8 (1.5)	2 (0.2)	9.437	<i>P</i> <0.01**
No	535 (97.3)	855 (99.3)		

* *p*<0.05, ***p*<0.01, ****p*<0.001

Supplementary Table 3 Comparison of knowledge and concerns related to COVID-19 and the psychological impact as well as adverse mental health status between Iranian and Chinese respondents (N= 1411)

Knowledge and concerns related to COVID-19	Iran (N=550)	China (N=861)	Chis quare (χ^2)	p-value	LSD (Bonferroni Correction for multiple comparisons)
	N(%)	N(%)			
Route of transmission					
Droplets					
1. Agree	390 (70.9)	762 (88.5)	69.346	p<0.001***	1vs2 1vs3 p < 0.0167
2. Disagree	19 (3.5)	11 (1.3)			
3. Do not know	141 (25.6)	88 (10.2)			
Contact via contaminated objects					
1. Agree	535 (97.2)	634 (73.6)	132.225	p<0.001***	1vs2 1vs3 p < 0.0167
2. Disagree	2 (0.4)	57 (6.6)			
3. Do not know	13 (2.4)	170 (19.8)			
Airborne					
1. Agree	292 (53.1)	498 (57.8)	4.912	p=0.086	
2. Disagree	104 (18.9)	166 (19.3)			
3. Do not know	154 (28.0)	197 (22.9)			
Level of confidence in own doctor's ability to diagnose or recognize COVID-19					
1. Very confident	101 (18.4)	498 (57.8)	324.476	p<0.001***	1vs2 1vs3 1vs4 1vs5 2vs3 2vs4; 2vs5 p < 0.005
2. Somewhat confident	259 (47.1)	325 (37.8)			
3. Not very confident	58 (10.5)	21 (2.4)			
4. Not at all confident	33 (6.0)	2 (0.2)			
5. Do not know	99 (18.0)	15 (1.8)			
Likelihood of contracting COVID-19 during the pandemic					
1. Very likely	33 (6.0)	78 (9.1)	124.269	p<0.001***	1vs2 1vs5 2vs3 2vs4 2vs5 3vs5; 4vs5 p < 0.005
2. Somewhat likely	207 (37.6)	231 (26.8)			
3. Not very likely	106 (19.3)	336 (39.0)			
4. Not likely at all	40 (7.3)	112 (13.0)			
5. Do not know	164 (29.8)	104 (12.1)			
Likelihood of surviving if infected with COVID-19					
1. Very likely	167 (30.4)	197 (22.9)	59.469	p<0.001***	1vs2 1vs3 2vs5 3vs5 p < 0.005
2. Somewhat likely	192 (34.9)	445 (51.7)			
3. Not very likely	20 (3.6)	62 (7.2)			
4. Not likely at all	15 (2.7)	15 (1.7)			
5. Do not know	156 (28.4)	142 (16.5)			
Satisfaction with the amount of health information available about COVID-19					
1. Very satisfied	78 (14.2)	247 (28.7)	123.337	p<0.001***	1vs2 1vs3 1vs4 1vs5
2. Somewhat satisfied	289 (52.5)	522 (60.7)			
3. Not very satisfied	78 (14.2)	45 (5.2)			

4. Not satisfied at all	44 (8.0)	21 (2.4)		2vs3
5. Do not know	61 (11.1)	26 (3.0)		2vs4;2vs5 $p < 0.005$
Degree of worry about family members being diagnosed with COVID-19				
1. Very worried	236 (42.9)	282 (32.8)		
2. Fairly worried	218 (39.7)	327 (38.0)		1vs3
3. Not very worried	53 (9.6)	181 (21.0)	38.795	2vs3 3vs4
4. Not worried at all	40 (7.3)	58 (6.7)	$p < 0.001^{***}$	$p < 0.005$
5. No family members	3 (0.5)	13 (1.5)		
The primary source of health information				
1. Internet	253 (46.0)	803 (93.3)		1vs2
2. Television	267 (48.5)	39 (4.5)		1vs4
3. Radio	1 (0.2)	3 (0.3)	413.111	1vs5 2vs5
4. Family members	16 (2.9)	7 (0.8)	$p < 0.001^{***}$	$p < 0.005$
5. Others	13 (2.4)	9 (1.1)		

* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

Supplementary Table 4 Comparison of precautionary measures related to COVID-19 between Iranian and Chinese respondents (N= 1411)

Precautionary Measures	Iran (N=550)	China (N=861)	Chi-square (χ^2)	p-value	LSD (Bonferroni Correction for multiple comparisons)
	N(%)	N(%)			
Covering mouth when coughing and sneezing					
1.Always	388 (70.6)	526 (61.1)	19.477	p<0.001***	1vs3 p < 0.0083
2.Most of the time	108 (19.6)	182 (21.1)			
3.Sometimes	40 (7.3)	112 (13.0)			
4.Never	14 (2.5)	41 (4.8)			
Avoidance of sharing utensils (e.g., chopsticks) during meals					
1.Always	307 (55.8)	386 (44.8)	32.428	p<0.001***	1vs3 1vs4 2vs3 2vs4 p < 0.0083
2.Most of the time	119 (21.6)	157 (18.2)			
3.Sometimes	85 (15.5)	220 (25.6)			
4.Never	39 (7.1)	98 (11.4)			
Washing hands with soap and water					
1.Always	484 (88.0)	497 (57.7)	152.583	p<0.001***	1vs2 1vs3 1vs4 2vs3 p < 0.0083
2.Most of the time	51 (9.2)	211 (24.5)			
3.Sometimes	8 (1.5)	127 (14.8)			
4.Never	7 (1.3)	26 (3.0)			
Washing hands immediately after coughing, rubbing the nose or sneezing					
1.Always	325 (59.1)	394 (45.8)	32.095	p<0.001***	1vs3 2vs3 p < 0.0083
2.Most of the time	116 (21.1)	195 (22.6)			
3.Sometimes	79 (14.3)	220 (25.6)			
4.Never	30 (5.5)	52 (6.0)			
Wearing a face mask regardless of the presence or absence of symptoms					
1.Always	258 (46.9)	630 (73.2)	183.928	p<0.001***	1vs2 1vs3 1vs4;2vs3 2vs4;3vs4 p < 0.0083
2.Most of the time	104 (18.9)	161 (18.7)			
3.Sometimes	97 (17.6)	61 (7.1)			
4.Never	91 (16.6)	9 (1.0)			
Washing hands after touching contaminated objects					
1.Always	471 (85.7)	636 (73.9)	33.682	p<0.001***	1vs2 p < 0.0083
2.Most of the time	55 (10.0)	177 (20.6)			
3.Sometimes	14 (2.5)	39 (4.5)			
4.Never	10 (1.8)	9 (1.0)			
Feeling that too much unnecessary worry has been made about the COVID-19 pandemic					
1.Always	10 (1.8)	125 (14.5)	309.238	p<0.001***	1vs4 2vs4 3vs4 p < 0.0083
2.Most of the time	14 (2.6)	81 (9.4)			
3.Sometimes	37 (6.7)	293 (34.0)			
4.Never	489 (88.9)	362 (42.1)			
The average number of hours staying at home per day to avoid COVID-19					
1.0-10	38 (6.9)	20 (2.3)	54.986	p<0.001***	1vs3 2vs3 p < 0.0167
2.10-20	108 (19.6)	78 (9.1)			
3.20-24	404 (73.5)	763 (88.6)			

* p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001

Supplementary Table 5 Comparison of information needs about COVID-19 between Iranian and Chinese respondents (N= 1411)

Information needs	Iran(N=550) N(%)	China (N=861) N(%)	Chi-square (χ^2)	p-value
Symptoms				
Yes	469(85.3)	736(85.5)	0.012	<i>p</i> =0.914
No	81(14.7)	125(14.5)		
Prevention methods				
Yes	451(82.0)	778(90.4)	20.878	<i>p</i> <0.001***
No	99(18.0)	83(9.6)		
Management and treatment methods				
Yes	497(90.4)	663(77.0)	40.962	<i>p</i> <0.001***
No	53(9.6)	198(23.0)		
Regular information update				
Yes	476(86.5)	820(95.2)	33.876	<i>p</i> <0.001***
No	74(13.5)	41(4.8)		
Local transmission data				
Yes	471(85.6)	826(95.9)	47.930	<i>p</i> <0.001***
No	79(14.4)	35(4.1)		
More personalized information, such as those with preexisting medical conditions				
Yes	453(82.4)	765(88.9)	11.960	<i>p</i> <0.01**
No	97(17.6)	96(11.1)		
Effectiveness of drugs and vaccines				
Yes	514(93.5)	798(92.7)	0.306	<i>p</i> =0.580
No	36(6.5)	63(7.3)		
Number of infected by geographical location				
Yes	472(85.8)	798(92.7)	17.584	<i>p</i> <0.001***
No	78(14.2)	63(7.3)		
Travel advice				
Yes	397(72.2)	760(88.3)	58.845	<i>p</i> <0.001***
No	153(27.8)	101(11.7)		
Transmission methods				
Yes	483(87.8)	807(93.7)	14.952	<i>p</i> <0.001***
No	67(12.2)	54(6.3)		
Other countries' strategies and responses				
Yes	461(83.8)	305(35.4)	316.732	<i>p</i> <0.001***
No	89(16.2)	556(64.6)		

* *p*<0.05, ***p*<0.01, ****p*<0.001