

Tourist Driver and Preventive Practice against COVID-19: A Short Report from Situation in Siem Reap Cambodia

Dear Editor,

COVID-19 already spread worldwide and it is considered as an important public health problem in world history. The disease usually spread rapidly in tourist town. In Indochina, the disease already spread in all countries. As a tourist hot spot of the world, many tourists became disease spreader in this area. According to the report by Haider *et al.*, Cambodia is a country with high risk for nationwide disease spreading.^[1] In Cambodia, the disease already occurred and become a local problem in mid-March 2020. The bolus of imported cases among foreign tourist cause an abrupt increase of incidence in the country. In Siem Reap, the town where one the Wonders of the World is located, there are many infected patients. Since many local people in this town have tourism-related jobs, disease control among those local people working in tourist service job is very important. Of several occupations, the local tourist driver or Tuk-Tuk driver is an occupation that gets directly exposed to tourists.

Here, the authors perform a short direct survey via Facebook chat and face to face video chat with a sample of 50 local English-speaking Tuk-Tuk tourist drivers in Siem Reap. According to the interview, all 50 drivers still work daily and still want to serve foreign tourists. Regarding the protective behavior, all of them have noted that that they did not have enough money to buy good expensive face masks for prevention, therefore, they have to use cheap affordable face marks and that the local vehicle is usually expose to external environment. All drivers also noted that they feared earning no money and they feared getting infected with COVID19.

Indeed, the expose to external environment is common among Tuk-Tuk drivers in Indochina and becomes an important occupational health issue.^[2] Not only toxin but also pathogen, such as novel coronavirus, might be an important health insult for the driver.

This short simple interview presents an interesting problem in the developing country where local people might not have good education. Furthermore, due to poverty, there might be little self-care and protective behavior against the outbreak of the disease.

Financial support and sponsorship

Nil.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

Pathum Sookaromdee¹, Viroj Wiwanitkit^{2,3}

¹Private Academic Practice, Bangkok, Thailand, ²Department of Community Medicine, Dr DY Patil University, Pune, Maharashtra, India,

³Department of Tropical Medicine, Hainan Medical University, Haikou, China

Address for correspondence:

Dr. Pathum Sookaromdee,

Private Academic Practice, Bangkok, Thailand.

E-mail: pathumsook@gmail.com

Received: 30 Mar 20 Accepted: 08 May 20

Published: 22 Jul 20

References

1. Haider N, Yavlinsky A, Simons D, Osman AY, Ntoumi F, Zumla A, *et al.* Passengers' destinations from China: Low risk of Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) transmission into Africa and South America. *Epidemiol Infect* 2020;148:e41.
2. Jinsart W, Kaewmanee C, Inoue M, Hara K, Hasegawa S, Karita K, *et al.* Driver exposure to particulate matter in Bangkok. *J Air Waste Manag Assoc* 2012;62:64-71.

This is an open access journal, and articles are distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 License, which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.

Access this article online

Quick Response Code:



Website:

www.ijpvmjournal.net/www.ijpvm.ir

DOI:

10.4103/ijpvm.IJPVM_155_20

How to cite this article: Sookaromdee P, Wiwanitkit V. Tourist driver and preventive practice against COVID-19: A short report from situation in Siem Reap Cambodia. *Int J Prev Med* 2020;11:106.

© 2020 International Journal of Preventive Medicine | Published by Wolters Kluwer - Medknow