

## **A45 Food safety knowledge, attitude, and practice among Malaysian adults during the COVID-19 pandemic**

***Soo PM and Tan CX***

*Department of Allied Health Sciences, Faculty of Science, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Kampar, Malaysia*

The current COVID-19 pandemic had increased the trend in meal preparation at home. The possible transmission of SARS-CoV-2 through food packaging contaminated by virus raised concern on the food safety among the public. This study was conducted to determine the level of knowledge, attitude, and practice towards food safety among the Malaysian adults during the COVID-19 pandemic. A cross-sectional study was conducted, and online questionnaire assessing the food safety knowledge, attitude, practice was distributed among the Malaysian adults via social media such as Facebook and Instagram. A total of 159 respondents were recruited. From the responses, fair level of food safety knowledge ( $6.3 \pm 1.3$ ), positive food safety attitude ( $40.2 \pm 4.5$ ), and good food safety practice ( $38.5 \pm 5.1$ ) were reported among the adults. The knowledge on building ventilation (33.3%), asymptomatic transmission of SARS-CoV-2 (27%), and effective disinfectant against SARS-CoV-2 (43.4%) were relatively poor. There was an association between food safety attitude and practice. It was noticed that the food safety knowledge was significantly higher among the male adults ( $p < 0.05$ ). The level of food safety attitude and practice were affected by age and marital status of respondents, where the middle-aged married adults had higher level of attitude and practice towards food safety than the younger and single adults. No significant difference was observed on the education level and food safety knowledge, attitude, and practice. The attention on educational programs and infographics targeting young and single adults is needed to ensure the improvement in food safety knowledge during the pandemic.