

## ***Introduction***

Influenza is one of the most common infectious diseases, and because of its high prevalence, it poses a real threat and poses a threat to human life and health globally. Influenza occurs with different intensities in two forms. Seasonal influenza occurs regularly as a pandemic, Influenza viruses can cause illness among all age groups, but infection rates are higher among children under two years of age, and among people aged 65 and over.

Annual immunization is the most effective way to prevent influenza and its complications. Routine annual influenza vaccination for all persons older than or equal to 6 months of age Influenza vaccination campaigns are typically directed toward three population groups: individuals at a high risk of influenza complications, those who can spread influenza to individuals at high risk of complications, and those who provide community services.

## ***Objectives***

To assess the knowledge of students of the College of Nursing, University of Babylon, about influenza infection. In addition, the study aimed to determine the relationship between the participants' sociodemographic characteristics and this level of knowledge.

## ***Methodology***

A predesigned self-administered questionnaire was adopted to collect the data for the purpose of this study. The questionnaire prepared in a "google form" format and distributed via students' social media study groups. It contains 2 sections, the first one was the demographic datasheet, it has been developed to collect specific demographic characteristic data including respondent's age, gender, marital status, academic year, vaccination status. The 2nd section includes 16 multiple choice and true false questions to assess the participants' knowledge about flu infection. Knowledge test questionnaire that was based on previous studies with modification. Then questionnaire was translated into Arabic (appendix 1 & 2)

## ***Results***

The results showed that people's source of information about influenza infection. (41%) of people get their information about influenza infection during their academic studies while (51%) get their information from internet and social networks. the mean knowledge score was 5.79 (out of a full 18) (median 6, range 0-16). 47% of participants had scores equal to or greater than the average score (6). There are no significant statistical relations between the above demographic characteristics and their knowledge score.

## ***Conclusions***

Although more than half of the study participants had an unsatisfactory level of knowledge, a significant number of nursing students lack basic knowledge about

transmission, prevention, and treatment of influenza infection. Social media has been the most popular source of information regarding influenza .

Knowledge levels were not affected by the age, gender and academic level of the students.