

APPENDIX 2. Impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak on clinical practices and regular clinic service of family doctors in the public and private sectors in Hong Kong

	Public (n=246)	Private (n=245)*	P value
Impact on clinical practices			
1. Clinical practice affected	223 (90.7%)	205 (83.7%)	0.021†
2. Change in service demands (increase or decrease)	130 (52.8%)	161 (65.7%)	0.004†
3. Encounter patients with suspected/confirmed COVID-19	52 (21.1%)	18 (7.3%)	<0.001†
4. Problems in stocking personal protective equipment	63 (25.6%)	195 (79.6%)	<0.001†
5. Use of guideline to assist clinical decision for diagnosing COVID-19 infection	143 (58.1%)	98 (40.0%)	<0.001†
6. Need for training to deal with the COVID-19 outbreak	149 (60.6%)	161 (65.7%)	0.237
Impact on regular clinic service			
1. No change needed to sustain regular essential primary care services	106 (43.1%)	135 (55.1%)	0.008†
2. Increase office hours	23 (9.3%)	7 (2.9%)	0.003†
3. Shorten patient consultation time	74 (30.1%)	38 (15.5%)	<0.001†
4. Ask patients to go to other clinics	3 (1.2%)	22 (9.0%)	<0.001†
5. Cancel or change regular non-acute patient appointments	74 (30.1%)	46 (18.8%)	0.004†
6. Close the clinic	3 (1.2%)	6 (2.4%)	0.310
Impact on clinic infection control practices			
1. Wear mask during consultations	245 (99.6%)	245 (100.0%)	0.318
2. Wash hands between or before patient encounter	243 (98.8%)	243 (99.2%)	0.656
3. Insist every patient to wear a mask during consultations	210 (85.4%)	165 (67.3%)	<0.001†
4. Screen / measure every patient's body temperature as a routine procedure	211 (85.8%)	183 (74.7%)	0.002†
5. Clean work surface with antiseptics at least once a day	200 (81.3%)	223 (91.0%)	0.002†
6. All staff have to wear masks	217 (88.2%)	208 (84.9%)	0.282
7. Open all the windows	14 (5.7%)	28 (11.4%)	0.023†
8. Install air purifiers	35 (14.2%)	71 (29.0%)	<0.001†
9. Request all staff to check their body temperature before coming to work	127 (51.6%)	140 (57.1%)	0.220

Abbreviation: COVID-19 = coronavirus disease 2019

* Private sector includes 3 doctors who worked in both sectors

† Significant difference between public and private sectors ($P < 0.05$) by Chi squared test