

ABSTRACT

Introduction

Influenza is identified as a highly contagious respiratory infection and due to its rapid transmission, the disease leave little time to implement mitigation measures, demanding overwhelming medical facilities for care. Recent Influenza outbreaks in Sri Lanka occurred among both poultry and human beings posing a continuous threat of infection to both humans and poultry.

Public Health Inspectors are the grass root level health care workers responsible in providing public health services regarding prevention and control of communicable diseases including Influenza.

The scope of this study is to assess the knowledge, attitudes and preparedness of Public Health Inspectors in Kalutara RDHS area to prevent and control an “outbreak of Influenza”.

Methods

This study was a cross sectional study and a self-administered questionnaire was used for data collection.

Results

The study revealed that 62.7% of the Public Health Inspectors in this study possessed an adequate overall knowledge on Influenza. Majority (85.1%) of the participants were having positive attitudes towards prevention and control of an outbreak of Influenza which was not significantly associated with period of service or on past experience in working in an outbreak of Influenza. Only 14.9 % of Public Health Inspectors possessed an adequate preparedness level for an impending outbreak of Influenza.

Conclusions& Recommendations

Gaps were identified in existing knowledge, attitude and preparedness of Public Health Inspectors on prevention and control of an outbreak of Influenza. Training programmes to upgrade knowledge, attitudes and preparedness should be carried out in future.

Key words

Public Health Inspectors, outbreak of Influenza, Regional Director of Health Services