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Appendix A: Original questionnaire by survey monkey

and expectations towards COVID-19 Information”

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* 1. It is your choice to taking part in this study and your participation in this survey is completely voluntary. If you decide to participate but subsequently you wish to change your mind, you are totally free to withdraw this study at any time without any consequence. You can stop the survey at any time you want and can refuse to answer or skip any questions (except this consent). By endorsing this consent, you agree to participate in the study as described above. You can save or print this e-letter for your own records.

Yes
 No

Understanding the Japanese online community's perspectives, beliefs and expectations towards COVID-19 information

I. Information sheet and consent

Description: Digital communication has opened new frontiers in the field of pandemic management. There has also been an overload of information, true or otherwise (so called 'infodemic'), which have brought with them unprecedented challenges in the response to COVID-19. We are therefore, conducting this online survey to understand Japanese people perspectives, beliefs and expectations about COVID-19, and that would allow us to better devise digital communication strategies under pandemics. Ultimately, through this study outcome, we hope to develop strategy allowing people receive the correct and trustworthy information so that they can make informed decisions.

Who will complete the survey: We are inviting the general public, who is currently residing in Japan and age 20 or above, to take this online survey. There are 38 items in this survey and it may take you about 10-15 mins to complete the entire survey.

Privacy and Confidentiality: Information collected is strictly confidential. When using your data, we will delete information from which a specific individual can be identified, and anonymous participant identify data by using symbols or numbers (subject identification codes) instead. Interactions with data between those involved in the research will be done using the subject identification codes to maintain confidentiality. Tables containing the personal information from which an individual can be immediately identified, and its corresponding subject identification code will be managed under the responsibility of the principal investigator, by storing them in locked cabinets or password-protected computer.

There is the possibility that the results of this research based on collected data will be summarized and presented at conferences or in medical journals or that the data information gathered in this research will be used in another research. In either case, information allowing for the immediate identification of an individual research subject will not be included. Also, only those participants who provided consent for supporting further study will be contacted for subsequent follow-up study.

There are no risks to your health from taking part in this study. Revealing about your experience with COVID-19 pandemic may be upsetting. You can quit the survey anytime you want. If you need clinical psychological support, you can get a free consultation (within 30 minutes) from the following link (<http://jfsp.net/PsychotherapyCenter/covid19.html>).

Questions about this study: The project is led by Graduate School of Public Health, St. Luke's International University. If you have any questions about the study, please contact Dr. Zole SY Wong, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Public Health, St. Luke's International University (by email: zolewong@slcn.ac.jp). The project title and team are listed below.

Project title: "Understanding the Japanese online community's perspectives, beliefs

Understanding the Japanese online community's perspectives, beliefs and expectations towards COVID-19 information

2. Eligibility to take the survey

* 2. Do you currently reside in Japan? (Participants must reside in Japan to be eligible for the survey)

- Yes
- No

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3. Eligibility to take the survey

* 3. Are you 20 years or above? (Participants must be 20 years or above to be eligible for the survey)

- Yes
- No

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4. Socio-demographics and health status

4. What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Other

5. In which year have you been born? _____ (year)

6. What is the highest educational level that you have attained? (If you are a student, please indicate the highest level you expect to complete)

- Junior high school
- High school
- Technical/vocational school
- Junior college
- University with/without degree
- Graduate school

7. If you add up the income from all sources for all the members of the household, do you know what your household's annual income is, including tax? If you don't know the exact figure, please give an estimate (optional)

- Less than 2 million yen
- 2 million yen - 4 million yen
- 4 million yen - 6 million yen
- 6 million yen - 8 million yen
- 8 million yen - 10 million yen
- 10 million yen - 12 million yen
- 12 million yen - 15 million yen
- More than 15 million yen

8. How many people other than yourself are currently living with you in your household since the COVID-19 pandemic? _____ (number)

9. Please describe your relation to those who live in your household (choose all that apply)

- Spouse/ Partner
- Child
- Grandchild
- Parent or parent-in-law
- Other family member
- Paid caregiver
- Friend or other non-family member
- Other (please specify)

10. Which phrase describes the area where you live?

- A big city
- The suburbs or outskirts of a big city
- A town or a small city
- A country village
- A farm or home in the countryside

11. In which prefecture do you live?

- Hokkaido
- Aomori
- Iwate
- Miyagi
- Akita
- Yamagata
- Fukushima
- Ibaraki
- Tochigi
- Gunma
- Saitama
- Chiba
- Tokyo
- Kanagawa
- Niigata
- Toyama
- Ishikawa

15. What is your nationality?

- Japanese
- Chinese
- Korean

Other (please specify)

16. What is your preferred language to receive COVID-19 information?

- Japanese
- English
- Chinese
- Korean

Other (please specify)

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5. Perspective on COVID-19's preventative measurements

17. What is the possible transmission route of COVID-19? (You may choose more than 1 answer)

- Airborne
- Droplets
- Contact with contaminated surfaces
- Contaminated foods and drinks
- Pets
- Handshaking and kissing

18. What are the precautionary measurements to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection? (You may choose more than 1 answer)

- Hand washing with water and soap
- Hand washing with alcoholic disinfectant
- Face masks
- Avoiding crowded areas
- Avoiding handshaking and kissing

19. Considering your health situation during the Corona crisis, please tell us for each of the following experiences whether or not it happened to you

	Yes: it happened to me	No: did NOT happened to me
I have been tested positively for COVID-19.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have been tested negatively for COVID-19.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have or had mild symptoms of COVID-19.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have or had severe symptoms of COVID-19.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
People close to me have or had mild symptoms.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
People close to me have or had severe symptoms.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

20. How many do you know who have, or think they have COVID-19?

- Fewer than 5
- Between 5 and 10
- Between 10 and 20
- More than 20

21. How afraid are you that you or your loved ones get sick and suffer severely from the Corona virus?

0 (Very afraid) 3 (Neither, nor) 5 (Not at all afraid)

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6. Employment status after COVID-19

22. Please, tell us for each of the following economic experiences whether or not it happened to you during the Corona crisis:

Yes: it happened to me No: it did NOT happened to me

I lost my job.

I had to close my business.

I am reduced to part time work.

I am doing home office.

I receive money from an aid package.

I go to work as before.

I daycare my kids.

23. How afraid are you that you or your loved ones will suffer from an economic recession following the Corona crisis?

1 (Very afraid) 3 (Neither, nor) 5 (Not at all afraid)

24. Which of these statements do you agree or disagree?

Not at all A little bit Somewhat Quite a bit Very much

I worry about the financial problems I will have in the future as a result of COVID-19

I am concerned about keeping my job and income, including work at home

COVID 19 has reduced my satisfaction with my present financial situation

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7. Online COVID-19 Information Seeking Behavior

25. What information's sources do you use to get knowledge about COVID-19?

- Social media
 Television
 News sites
 Electronic and printable newspaper
 Official reports
 Family and friends
 Doctors and medical staff

26. How long do you spend on average each day getting news or learning about COVID-19?
(minutes)

27. I would like to ask you for your opinion and about your experience using the Internet for health information since the COVID-19 pandemic. For each statement, tell me which response best reflects your opinion and experience right now.

How useful do you feel the Internet is in helping you in making decisions about your health?

- Not use at all
 Not useful
 Unsure
 Useful
 Very useful

28. How important is it for you to be able to access health resources on the internet?

- Not at all important
 Not important
 Unsure
 Important
 Very important

29. I know what health resources are available on the Internet

- Strongly Disagree
 Disagree
 Undecided
 Agree
 Strongly Agree

30. I know how to find helpful health resources on the Internet

- Strongly Disagree
 Disagree
 Undecided
 Agree
 Strongly Agree

31. I know how to use the health information I find on the Internet to help me

- Strongly Disagree
 Disagree
 Undecided
 Agree
 Strongly Agree

32. I have the skills I need to evaluate the health resources I find on the Internet

- Strongly Disagree
 Disagree
 Undecided
 Agree
 Strongly Agree

33. I feel confident in using information from the Internet to make health decisions

- Strongly Disagree
 Disagree
 Undecided
 Agree
 Strongly Agree

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34. The social media are full of stories telling that the Corona pandemic is a hoax and that all the lockdown measures are a hysterical overreaction. Do you believe in these stories?
 YES, I do believe in these stories
 NO, I don't believe in these stories

35. How credible do you think are the social media, like Twitter and Facebook, compared to the traditional media, like TV and newspapers, using this scale

1 (Social media are most credible) 3 (Both are the same) 5 (Traditional media are most credible)

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8. Mental aspect

36. Over the last two weeks, how often have you been bothered by the following problems?

	Not at all	Several days	More than half of days	Nearly every day
Feeling nervous, anxious or on edge.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not being able to stop or control worrying.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Feeling down, depressed or hopeless	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Little interest or pleasure in doing things.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have felt lonely.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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9. Behavioral Aspect

37. How much of these statements do you agree or disagree with?

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
My actions will influence whether or not I get COVID-19	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is my responsibility to follow all public health guidance to prevent the spread of COVID 19 to others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Managing my health has become more difficult during COVID 19 outbreak	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

38. How often do you do these activities since COVID-19 started?

	Less than once per week	Once per week	A few times per week	Once per day	Multiple times per day
How often are you leaving your home?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Exercise	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Grocery shopping	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seeing friends	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Going to work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Medical appointments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Going to pharmacy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Going to shops (other than pharmacy)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Running errands (eg. post office)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drinking Alcohol	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Eating unhealthy snacks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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10. Thank you for responding to the survey!
If you are willing to stay connected, please add our Twitter (@zolesywang) or contact Dr. Wong through Email (zolesywang@sicn.ac.jp)

40. This part is also completely **voluntary**. Our research group organizes various public seminars focusing on digital health or COVID-19 topics from time to time. If you wish to get in touch, receive a final study report or are willing to support our further study, please indicate your preference.

	Yes	No
I wish to get in touch	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I wish to receive a final study report	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am willing to support your further study	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please leave your contact email and name, if you wish to be contacted for further study