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## **COMMUNICATION TO THE SAUDI MEDICAL JOURNAL FOR STUDENTS REGARDING “THE COVID-19 RESPONSE STRATEGIES IN THE NEW NORMAL ERA” WEBINAR ON 30 JULY, 2020, (BEIJING TIME) HOSTED BY CHINA CDC**

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Since 11 March, 2020, the World Health Organization has declared the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) as a pandemic, and the world has experienced a drastic change. By the end of August 2020, the total death toll is about 800,000 of 23 million positive cases. China is currently facing the third wave of the pandemic, whereas many other countries worldwide are between the first and the second waves. The collaborative effort of the scientific community has been launched to ensure minimizing the pandemic impact. After a few months of daily incidence and mortality reports in addition to the huge economic burden on governmental and individual levels, the concept of “new normal” emerged to overcome the crisis consequences. In this context, China CDC hosted an international webinar on 30 July, 2020, titled “The COVID-19 Response Strategies in the New Normal Era.” Renowned scientists from the five

continents participated in the discussion. In general, all countries reopened at different scales. During my talk, I encouraged scientists in each region to draw their own tentative deadline in resuming usual daily activities; otherwise and from the public point of view, the term “new normal” will become an excuse to stay where we are. We need a task force in the national and international levels to study available published valid data on COVID-19. Taking a calculated risk using the experimental approach, we may resume normal life in randomly selected areas and then statistically compare the intervention with control regions. Artificial intelligent products have been dominating the scene during this COVID-19 pandemic and are expected to continue playing a major role in the current reopening of countries and preparedness for future pandemics.