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NIP TARGET GROUP EXPANDED

# VACCINES FOR KIDS, TEENS NEXT MONTH

Jabs for all aged 16 and 17, and those 12 to 15 with certain conditions from mid-Sept

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**S**TARTING Sept 15, Covid-19 vaccines will be administered to children aged between 12 and 17 based on age de-escalation and medical conditions under the Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme (NIP).

However, Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the implementation of this plan depends on the availability of vaccines.

“Starting mid-September, the NIP will be expanded to include individuals aged between 12 and 15 years old with certain medical conditions and all individuals aged 16 and 17 years old with or without certain medical conditions.

“Only three categories of vaccine recipients with certain medical conditions must undergo a pre-vaccination assessment.

“They include individuals with a history of severe allergy to vaccines in the past, severe allergy to medicines or with other unknown allergies; immune-compromised individuals due to certain diseases or treatment; and individuals who undergo anti-coagulant treatment or those with bleeding tendencies.

“Based on the pre-vaccination assessment, medical officers will notify whether individuals can get their jabs at any time, postpone it to another date or if they cannot take the vaccines due to absolute contra-indications.

“The pre-vaccination assessment can be done at all health facilities, including public and private hospitals and clinics,” he said in a circular yesterday.

Dr Noor Hisham said those identified with health risks during the pre-vaccination assessment would get their jabs at a hospital or medical institute so that they could get treatment immediately, if necessary.

Besides individuals who undergo pre-vaccination assessments,

Dr Noor Hisham said patients undergoing long-term treatment at hospitals and other individuals identified by doctors would also be inoculated at hospitals and medical institutes.

“The vaccine supply will be distributed to all states, and subsequently transported to the vaccine administration centres.

“The vaccines will be rolled out at special vaccination centres in hospitals and medical institutes, other vaccination centres, including clinics, and through outreach programmes in schools,” he added.

NIP Coordinating Minister Khairy Jamaluddin tweeted yesterday that the Covid-19 Vaccine Supply Access Guarantee Special Committee would announce the guidelines for vaccinating adolescents next week, as per Dr Noor Hisham’s circular.

As of Thursday, 26,388,905 doses of the Covid-19 vaccine have been dispensed.



A retail-sector worker getting vaccinated at the Dataran Pahlawan Melaka Megamall yesterday. PIC BY SYAFEEQ AHMAD

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba said 16,545,384 people had received at least one dose, and 9,843,521 of these people had received the second dose.

He tweeted that 70.7 per cent of adults in Malaysia had received at least one dose of vaccine, while 42 per cent of adults had completed their vaccination.

On Thursday, 525,342 doses of vaccine were administered, with 197,962 people getting their first dose and 327,380 people receiving their second dose.



Foreigners awaiting vaccination at the Bukit Jalil National Stadium yesterday. PIC BY SAIFULLIZAN TAMADI