

# NEWS / Story of the day

(22 June 2021) News Straits Times, p. 47

MORE VACCINE DELIVERIES SOON

## KHAIRY: 10pc OF POPULATION TO BE VACCINATED BY MID-JULY

Govt aims to ramp up drive to ensure 8 million vaccine doses are administered this month

NURADZIMMAH DAIM  
AND HANA NAZ HARUN  
KUALA LUMPUR  
news@nst.com.my



Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba

On the Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 Janssen vaccine, he said Malaysia had exercised its option to purchase the vaccine but had yet to receive a delivery date from the COVAX facility.

Khairy said to date, the highest number of vaccine doses dispensed in a single day was 221,706 doses, with the target being 300,000 doses daily.

"The vaccination rate is now being actively stepped up nationwide and is in line with the National Recovery Plan's (NRP) aim of achieving herd immunity as soon as possible," he said.

He was commenting on the NRP, which has set a goal of having a 10 per cent vaccination rate of full doses before the country can shift into the second phase to allow more economic activities to resume.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba, at the same press conference, said in order to meet the 10 per cent vaccination target, two other indicators were used.

These, he said, were the number of daily Covid-19 cases as well as public health capacity based on the bed utilisation rate in intensive care unit (ICU) wards.

"We are monitoring these two and have seven more days (before the full lockdown is scheduled to end on June 28). We have seen a drop in Covid-19 daily cases (the average daily Covid-19 cases

must fall below 4,000).

"Meanwhile the bed utilisation rate in ICU wards has seen a slight drop but the overall occupancy rate is still higher than the set 75 per cent (benchmark)," he said.

Dr Adham said the three indicators could be fulfilled if everyone played their role and extended their full cooperation to help the nation reach the NRP's second phase.

Meanwhile, Khairy said companies that joined the Public-Private Partnership Covid-19 Industry Immunisation Programme (Pikas) needed to pay only the operational cost of the vaccine injection as the vaccine was provided free.

"We will not force them to join and, from my meetings with the industry players, they have stepped forward to assist the government to speed up (the process) and bear some of the cost.

"The government provides the vaccines for free while the companies bear the operational costs imposed by ProtectHealth Corporation Sdn Bhd.

"This is not a profit-oriented activity and the charges imposed are minimal," he said.

He said up to June 16, 2,082 companies with a total workforce of 301,050 had registered to be vaccinated under Pikas.

**Page 3 pic:** People entering the vaccination centre at the Bukit Jalil National Stadium in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.



Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme Coordinating Minister Khairy Jamaluddin visiting the vaccination centre at the Bukit Jalil National Stadium in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIX BY ASYRAF HAMZAH

TEN per cent of Malaysia's population is expected to be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 by mid-July.

Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme Coordinating Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said the government aimed to administer eight million doses of the Covid-19 vaccine this month.

"With every 100 doses administered, 30 of them are for the second doses. In order to fully immunise 10 per cent of the population or 3.2 million people, we need to administer roughly 10.7 million doses by mid-July.

"This will involve ramping up our vaccination capacity (to 300,000 doses daily by July and 400,000 doses daily in August)," said Khairy, who is also science, technology and innovation minister, at a virtual press conference yesterday.

Khairy said this could be achieved based on the Covid-19 vaccine delivery centres (PPV) that have already been set up, as well as available vaccines, namely 4,078,620 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, 3,687,880 doses of the Sinovac vaccine and 828,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

"From the second week of July, we will see a weekly increase in the delivery of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. As for the AstraZeneca vaccine, we will receive another shipment in early July," he said.