

MEDIA STATEMENT

Covid-19 Vaccine Supply Access Guarantee Special Committee (JKJAV)

Administration of Covid-19 Vaccine to non-citizens of Malaysia

PUTRAJAYA, 11 February 2021 - The Cabinet in their meeting yesterday has decided that the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme which will begin at the end of this month will include free vaccinations to all foreign nationals living in Malaysia.

In line with the theme of the programme which is namely 'Protect Yourself, Protect Everyone' and through the approach that "no one is safe until all are safe", the decision to offer free vaccines to non-citizens were made after taking into account the following factors:-

- a. A safe Covid-19 environment can only be achieved if most residents of Malaysia are vaccinated.
- b. In the pandemic period, vaccination is a humane move
- c. foreign workers encompass a big portion of COVID-19 cases in Malaysia's existing COVID-19 clusters, especially those in the construction, agriculture and manufacturing sectors.
- d. infections as a result of foreign workers clusters have "high costs" due to treatment and quarantine procedures.
- e. Foreign workers have become part of our community and also contribute to the country's economy
- f. Treatment by some countries that have provided free vaccination for Malaysians who are based there.

This decision makes it easier to administer vaccines to non- citizens and is key to help ensure the success of the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme.

Malaysian citizens, however, will be the first in line and prioritized before foreigners residing in Malaysia will be allowed access to the programme. More information and the schedule for vaccination of foreigners will be announced in the future.

The decision to offer vaccination to foreigners for free was made also because the number of doses obtained by the Malaysian government exceeds the number of Malaysian citizens who are qualified to be inoculated.

It is also in line with the government's stand to offer the vaccine to as many in the Malaysian population as possible so as to achieve herd immunity in overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Protect Self, Protect All"

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