

# Malaysia may add Johnson & Johnson to its vaccine armoury

---



**NATION**

Thursday, 18 Feb 2021



PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia looks set to add Johnson & Johnson to its lineup of Covid-19 vaccine suppliers, in a boost to the country's National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme.

x

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said the discussions with the US multinational to finalise the procurement of its vaccine.

"The Cabinet has given its approval for the procurement of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine on the basis of a recommendation by the Covid-19 Vaccine Supply Access Guarantee Scheme (CovSAGS)." —



Home



For You



Bookmark



Audio

“This is still in the discussion stage. I am made to understand that Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba will be signing the contract with Johnson & Johnson soon.

“After that, the vaccine will be sent to the Health Ministry’s National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA) to be evaluated,” Khairy told a press conference yesterday.

So far, Malaysia has agreed to procure Covid-19 vaccines from five companies: Pfizer-BioNTech, AstraZeneca, Sinovac, CanSinoBIO, and Sputnik V.

Only Pfizer-BioNTech’s vaccine has received NPRA approval, while the rest are still under evaluation.

Khairy also said a deal has been made with Pfizer and BioNTech that Malaysia would not miss out on upgraded versions of their vaccine.

“When I negotiated with Pfizer and BioNTech, I ensured that if there was an upgrade based on new variants, our existing contract will cover vaccines that are upgraded or new vaccines from Pfizer.

“This is in light of the emergence of new variants or mutations of the coronavirus,” he said.

Khairy also said that the government has secured the procurement of low-dead volume syringes to administer the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. These syringes, he added, can extract six doses from one vial, compared to the ordinary syringe that extracts only five doses.

The coordinating minister of the national immunisation plan said the country expects logistical issues to be one of its main challenges.

“We are managing a nationwide campaign that includes making sure that vaccines, especially Pfizer-BioNTech’s, are kept in ultra-cold storage. A lot of thought goes into the logistics,” said Khairy.

To a question, he said the Health Ministry would be updating the list of people to be advised against taking the vaccine.

“We are still updating based on the data that we continue to get from other parts of the world.

“When we are certain about it, the minister will announce this,” he said when asked if pregnant women would not be on the list of people who can be vaccinated.

Meanwhile, Khairy also said Malaysia could become a regional hub for halal vaccines, after interest shown by investors around the world.

“Many vaccine investors have approached us to position Malaysia as a hub for South-East Asia and other Muslim markets around the world because of our well-respected and stringent halal certifications.

#### TAGS / KEYWORDS:

[Johnson & Johnson](#) [Covid-19 Vaccine](#) [National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme](#) [Khairy Jamaluddin](#) [Health](#)



Home



For You



Bookmark



Audio



Search

Did you find this article insightful?

Yes

No

33% readers found this article insightful

## Stories You'll Enjoy

**STARPICKS** 

Ho Wah Genting, E-MO Biotech and Fuse Biotech  
join hands in vaccine R&D, targets Nasdaq...

**NATION** 19h ago 

Covid-19 vaccines: Malaysia's contracts ensure it  
will get updated vaccines for...

**SINGAPORE** 11h ago

Driver's fiancée ran into fire

**STARPLUS** 14 Feb 2021

Love by the Numbers



Home



For You



Bookmark



Audio



Search

**NATION** 11h ago

## Malaysia may add Johnson & Johnson to its vaccine armoury

**NATION** 19h ago

## Khairy: Govt to sign vaccine procurement contract with Johnson & Johnson

**NATION** 11h ago

## All hands on deck to ensure vaccination success

**NATION** 2h ago

## Cops nab Sugarbook founder

**ASEANPLUS NEWS** 11h ago

## China's vaccine aid expanding



Home



For You



Bookmark



Audio



Search

**NATION** 18h ago

Cops record statement of cosmetics company founder over viral video showing him...

**NATION** 11h ago

Ensure success of immunisation plan, bosses urged

**BANKING** 11h ago

Worst might be over for Public Bank Bhd

Load More

#### Subscriptions

The Star Digital Access

SMS Services

Newsstand

Other Publications

#### Advertising

Our Rate Card

Classifieds



Home



For You



Bookmark



Audio



Search

[About Us](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Investor Relations](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[FAQs](#)

## Policies

[Privacy Statement](#)

[Terms & Conditions](#)



**Subscribe to our FREE newsletter!**

Enter Your Email Address Here

Subscribe

Copyright © 1995- 2021 Star Media Group Berhad (10894D)  
Best viewed on Chrome browsers.



Home



For You



Bookmark



Audio



Search