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 Practical

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

"The Cabinet has given its approval for the procurement of the Johnson a recommendation by the Covid-19 Vaccine Supply Access Guarantee St









"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:

Iohnson & Iohnson Covid-19 Vaccine National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme Khairy Iamaluddin Health











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 fiancee ran into fire

STARPLUS 14 Feb 2021

Love by the Numbers











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











NATION 18h ago

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

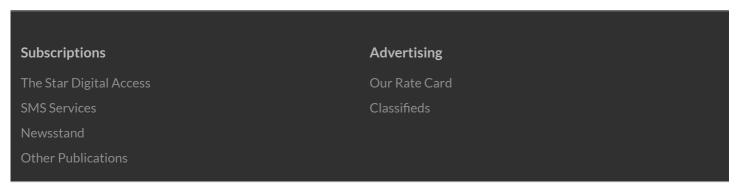
NATION 11h ago

Ensure success of immunisation plan, bosses urged

BANKING 11h ago

Worst might be over for Public Bank Bhd

Load More



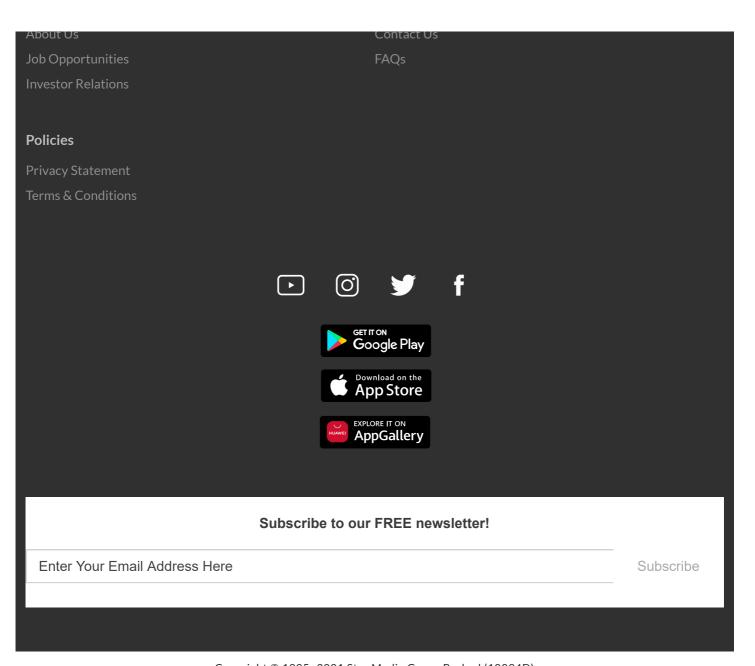












Copyright © 1995- 2021 Star Media Group Berhad (10894D) Best viewed on Chrome browsers.









