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'A year to achieve herd immunity'
80% of population have to be vaccinated to attain target, says scientist

09 FEB 2021 / 07:50 H.



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with the Covid-19 vaccine.

Malaysia is expected to receive the vaccine from Pfizer-BioNTech by the end of February with frontline staff being among early recipients.

"After February, the immunisation programme will become one of the largest vaccination exercises in Malaysia. The administration of the vaccines will be carried out in three phases and will run until February 2022," he told Bernama in a special interview via Zoom yesterday.

Ummirul said the vaccinations will be conducted at 600 vaccination centres nationwide under the supervision of the Health Ministry, hospitals, and universities.

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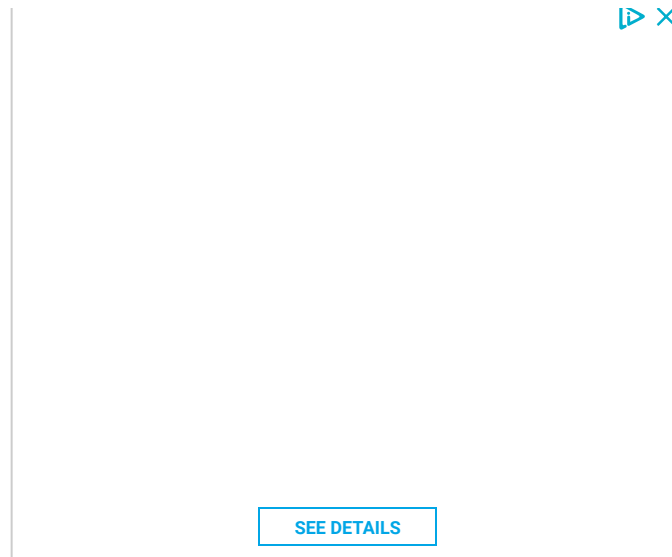
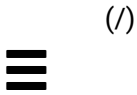


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In addition to Pfizer-BioNTech, so far there are several types of Covid-19 vaccines that have been identified by the ministry through the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency, namely the vaccine produced by



It also coincides with the aspirations of the National Immunisation Plan by the Special Committee on Covid-19 Vaccine Supply Access Guarantee, namely "Protect yourself, Protect All".

Ummirul, who was a panellist of the Malaysia Petang Ini programme aired on Bernama TV said the Malaysian Genome Institute (MGI) was developing a biosensor strip using Crispr technology to detect Covid-19.

"This is one of the initiatives of the agency under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation in the fight against Covid-19. It is a kind of kit, using strips (paper strips) on which a smear or liquid sample is placed and the results will be obtained in a short time."

He said MGI also serves as a sequencing point for the Covid-19 virus genome to obtain the latest genetic information and mutation of the virus in Malaysia.

Recently, he said, there were more than 30 genome viruses uploaded to the Covid-19 virus genome database.

The government always ensures that only the best vaccines that are safe, of good quality and effective will be given to the people and there is no compromise on the level of safety and effectiveness of the vaccine used.

Meanwhile, he said the current study showed that the effectiveness of the Covid-19 vaccines produced was 70 to 95%, including against new mutated variants.

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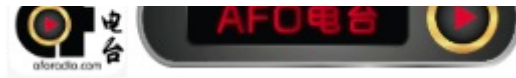
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