

18.5.2021_NST_MOSTI_ONLY PFIZER JAB FOR PREGNANT WOMEN AND NURSING MUMS

Only Pfizer jab for pregnant women and nursing mums

KUALA LUMPUR: Only the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine will be allowed for pregnant women in Malaysia.

National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme (NIP) Coordinating Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said this was based on the advice of Health Ministry experts.

"The Pfizer vaccine is allowed for pregnant women between 14 and 33 weeks, or they should defer vaccination until after the pregnancy.

"The vaccine is also suitable for nursing mothers.

"I have asked the Covid-19 Immunisation Task Force (CTTF) to coordinate with hospitals and specialists to make arrangements so that they (pregnant women) are given priority to receive the Pfizer vaccine."

He said administering other Covid-19 vaccines that Malaysia had, namely Sinovac and AstraZeneca, was not advised for the group due to limited clinical data. He advised expecting and nursing mothers to consult their doctors on the vaccination.

For media practitioners, he said the list of journalists who would get vaccinated was now available.

"Bobby (Khairy's press secretary, Raja Syahrir Bakar) came to me this morning (yesterday) with a list of media organisations (and their staff) that can get vaccinated soon.

"But we don't know yet if they will be given the Sinovac or Pfizer vaccine.

"These are the two vaccines available in the mainstream (NIP)."

A ministry spokesman told the *New Straits Times* that a list of media practitioners had been submitted to the CTTF last week.

He said the inoculation drive would be done in stages for some 5,000 journalists nationwide, with some getting vaccine appointments this week.

Khairy had previously said journalists under the National Union of Journalists and journalist associations in Sabah and Sarawak would get vaccinated starting this month.

He said the government decided to include media practitioners in the priority list for Covid-19 vaccination, but it was subject to supply.