

NEWS

Khairy: Phase 3 of COVID-19 immunisation programme might be delayed due to insufficient vaccines

BY SOYACINCAU 3:58 PM, 5 MAY 2021 [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

Phase 3 of the National COVID-19 Immunisation Programme (NIP) might be delayed beyond its intended kick-off in May, coordinating minister Khairy Jamaluddin said today.

AD

Khairy attributed this to the lack of supplies in the global vaccine distribution chain as pharmaceutical companies seemingly prioritised richer countries which led to slower vaccination rollouts in developing countries.

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“Phase Three was supposed to start in May but I don’t know if we will have enough supplies. We need to make an announcement on that (later).

“Of course as a developing country, we are extremely dissatisfied with the distribution of vaccines around the world.

“This has been a matter highlighted not just by developing countries but also concerns voiced by United Nation’s Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and World Health Organisation (WHO) chief Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who said that the rollout of vaccine supplies as far as the first half of 2021 is concerned, is completely inequitable and frankly unethical,” he told a press conference at the World Trade Centre Kuala Lumpur COVID-19 vaccination centre here.



Target groups for the 3 phases of vaccination and the estimated number of individuals to be vaccinated

PHASE 1 (February – April 2021)

Priority group 1

Frontliners comprising of public and private healthcare personnel

500,000 people

Priority group 2

Frontliners consisting of essential services*, defence and security personnel

* Will be updated from time to time by JKJAV

PHASE 2 (April – August 2021)

Priority group 1

Remainder of healthcare workers as well as those in essential services and defence and security personnel

9.4 million people

Priority group 2

Senior citizens (those aged 60 and over), high-risk group with chronic diseases such as heart disease, obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure and people with disabilities (OKU)*

* The information will be reviewed periodically

Pandemic control measures

PHASE 3 (May 2021 – February 2022)

Priority group

Adult population aged 18 years and above (citizens & non-citizens)

Priority will be given to those in the red zones; followed by those in yellow zones and finally those in green zones

Target
13.7 million people/
more

Pandemic control measures

Source: MOH

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Khairy, however, assured that the minor setback in vaccine supplies is set to change beginning June as most of the richer countries finish inoculating a majority of their citizens.

He earlier highlighted Malaysia's vaccination program efficiency in successfully providing vaccination appointments to some 260,000 people in the span of 48 hours, in reference to the ongoing opt-in AstraZeneca vaccination program which officially started today.

"I am not pushing the blame on anybody, but I am just trying to manage expectations here in Malaysia.

"People come to me all the time telling me they want the vaccines. It's not they are sitting in a freezer here in KL but they have not arrived yet. They arrive on a very gradual basis.

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"So it's like a scene from *Titanic* where the guys from the lower class are waiting for the lifeboats and the guys from the upper cabin have already gone onto them. That is what's happening," he said.

In March this year, Guterres criticised the "self-interest" of rich countries for 'stocking' vaccine supplies beyond the needs of their populations.

Guterres had lamented that the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access or Covax international system of vaccine aid to disadvantaged countries was experiencing "difficulties" due to hoarding. — *Malay Mail*



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Finally he admitted shortage of vaccines rather than blaming low sign-up rate although 9M+ Rakyat already done so !!!

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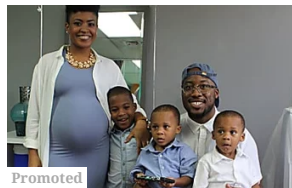
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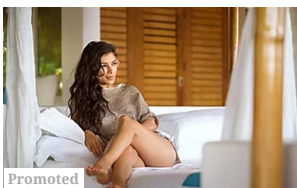
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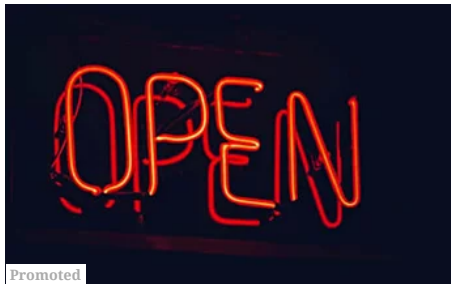
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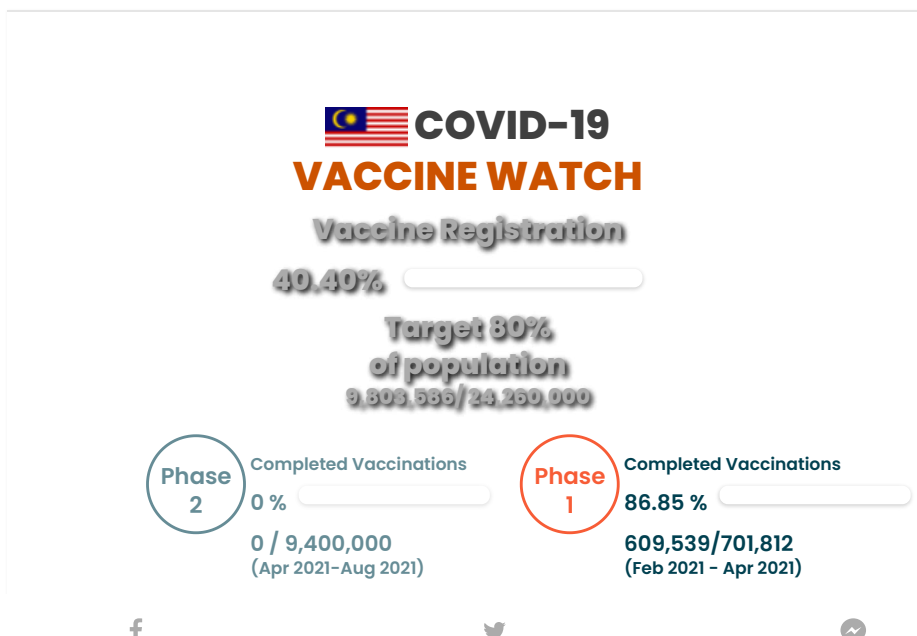
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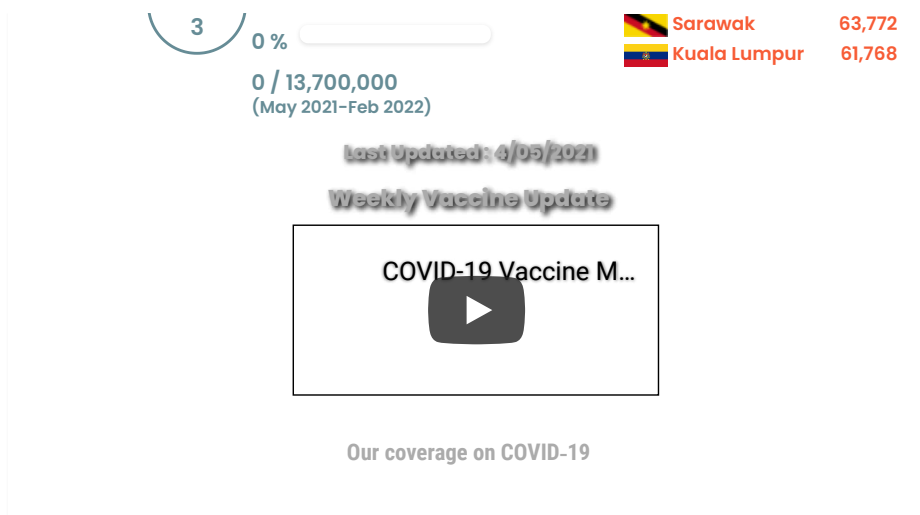
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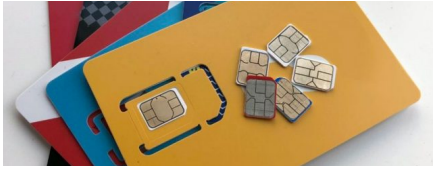
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