

10.6.2021_NST_Journalists Thankful For Protection

#CUCUKMYPRESS CAMPAIGN

JOURNALISTS THANKFUL FOR PROTECTION

It's not a silver bullet, but vaccine minimises risk of complications, says one

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FOLLOWING the extensive online #CucukMyPress campaign a few days ago, the first batch of media practitioners finally got their vaccinations yesterday.

One of them was *New Straits Times* reporter Arfa Yunus, who was relieved to receive the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine.

The 33-year-old said media practitioners were always at risk of being infected as they had to go to the ground and meet a lot of people when sourcing stories.

"To be vaccinated is very meaningful to us and I hope those who

have yet to be inoculated will get their appointment dates via the MySejahtera application soon," she said at Dewan Seri Serio here.

TV3 broadcast journalist Wan Zairul Azri Wan Mohammad Sudin thanked the government for its concern and willingness to listen to the media's request to be vaccinated together with other frontliners.

Wan Zairul, who is the Putrajaya Media Club president, said he had been looking forward to the day when media personnel got vaccinated.

"We understand now the vaccine is not a silver bullet that will protect media practitioners completely from the virus. Nonetheless, it still protects us in a way by minimising the risk of complications if we get infected."

"In view of latest developments, being vaccinated has never been more crucial with the emergence of new variants of the virus, which are said to be more vicious," said Wan Zairul.

He said 23 media practitioners from 10 media agencies in Putrajaya received their first dose of

the Covid-19 vaccine in the administrative capital yesterday.

"A total of four sessions were held to administer the vaccine, at 9am, 10am, noon and 12.30pm. I got the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine at noon," he said.

Sinar Harian journalist Tuan Bushairah Tuan Muhamad Adnan said she received the first dose of the Sinovac vaccine.

"Every day, we go out and meet people. We are always exposed to the risk of infection. But for the sake of doing our job, we have to always ensure physical distancing, with frequent hand washing, using two pieces of face mask and always using disinfectant liquids," she said.

Meanwhile, in Kelantan, State Health director Datuk Dr Zaini Hussin said nearly 100 media practitioners were scheduled to get the first vaccination dose starting from yesterday.

These media practitioners from various agencies, he said, were expected to receive the vaccine jabs at the Darulnaim Complex in Kota Bharu.

He said more than 20 individuals should have been vaccinated yesterday. The rest would receive theirs by today.



'New Straits Times' reporter Arfa Yunus receiving the Covid-19 vaccine in Putrajaya yesterday.
PH BY MENDI CAZLI HANISAH



New Straits Times Press photographer Mohd Fadli Hamzah receiving the Covid-19 vaccine in Putrajaya yesterday.

"Some of the local media practitioners have taken their vaccine jabs recently."

"The remaining will get the vaccines during the two-day programme, which began today (yesterday)," he said after an outreach programme at Masjid Mukim Banggol here.

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Khairy Jamaluddin was reported as saying that the immunisation programme for media personnel nationwide would begin in stages, with notification of their appointments sent out through the MySejahtera app.

Khairy, who is also the minister in charge of the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme, said the Covid-19 Immunisation Task Force had been working with the Information Department, the communications and multimedia industry, including media associations in the peninsula, Sabah and Sarawak, to obtain the names of media practitioners who have been active in the field for two years, beginning May 1, 2019, up to April 30.