

10.6.2021_NST_Selangor Vaccine Capacity Will Be Increased

RAMPING UP

'SELANGOR VACCINE CAPACITY WILL BE INCREASED'

Authorities have taken note of ruler's concerns and will roll out plan, says Khairy

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THE opening of more vaccination centres in Selangor soon will enable the government to supply more Covid-19 vaccines to the state, said National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme (NIP) Coordinating Minister Khairy Jamaluddin yesterday.

He said vaccination centres in Selangor were unable to store more Covid-19 vaccines.

Khairy said the Covid-19 Immunisation Task Force (CITF) had set up more vaccination facilities, including mega-scale centres such as Setia Alam Convention Centre and Universiti Teknologi Mara Puncak Alam, to enable supply to be increased in Selangor, which was the country's most populous state.

"With the opening of more vaccination centres in Selangor, we will be able to increase supply of vaccines in the state to 25 per cent from the total supplies in the country. This means we will be able to focus more on Selangor and curb the spread of Covid-19 in the Klang Valley, which includes the state and Kuala Lumpur.

"This percentage will increase when more vaccines arrive in the country," he said during the weekly press conference by CITF yesterday. Also present was Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba.

Selangor ruler Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah on Tuesday voiced concern that the doses supplied to Selangor were not proportionate to the state's population of 6.5 million people.

Private Secretary to the sultan, Datuk Mohamed Munir Bani, in a statement said Sultan Sharafuddin was shocked when informed by CITF that Selangor received only 615,210 vaccine doses instead of 2.9 million up to June 1.

Khairy, who is also science, technology and innovation minister, said CITF took note of the sultan's concerns and had made plans to address the problem.

He said there were overlaps in data on Selangor and Kuala Lumpur residents, as some people lived in the state but had Kuala Lumpur addresses.

On vaccinations for "critical" economic sector workers, Khairy said it would start on June 16 in Pengerang, Johor, under the fourth phase of the NIP.

He said the priority would be workers of sectors allowed to op-



Vaccine recipients awaiting their turn at the Pandamaran Sports Complex in Port Klang, Selangor, yesterday. PIC BY HAZ ANJALIM

erate during the Movement Control Order (MCO 3.0), including manufacturing, exports, transportation and logistics, and energy and utilities.

Khairy said CITF was working with ProtectHealth Corporation Sdn Bhd to manage the vaccination drive.

"At the moment, CITF is also working closely with several ministries and government agencies, such as the International Trade and Industry Ministry, Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry, Works Ministry, Transport Ministry, and Tourism, Arts and Culture Ministry to carry out the fourth phase.

"We will start by vaccinating employees at the Petronas Complex in Pengerang on that date. The Pengerang complex has been identified as a high-risk area."

On the prime minister's suggestion that there be automatic vaccination registration, Khairy said the Special Committee on Covid-19 Vaccine Supply Access Guarantee was looking at several angles to the proposal.

Among them, he said, was whether to allow people to opt out of vaccination.

"The (automatic) registration process (if implemented) must not be complicated. For example, the vaccination outreach programme in rural and interior areas does not require the recipient to register through the MySejahtera application.

"After they have been administered with the vaccine, we will

record their data in our system."

Khairy said more than 2.2 million senior citizens above the age of 60 had registered to be vaccinated. Of that number, 855,124 had received their first dose, and by June 15, another 436,244 would get appointments.

"Based on this information, nearly 60 per cent of senior citizens who have registered will receive or would have already received their vaccinations by mid-June.

"The remaining individuals (who registered) will receive their shots as soon as possible," he said.

Addressing claims that poor data management led to the system not prioritising senior citizens, Khairy said this was due to supply and capacity issues, which the authorities would improve on.

"To say the present system does not prioritise the elderly is simply not true. We are dealing with billions of data points, which need proper servers and systems to handle.

"When you are handling data sets this big, it is very difficult to just deal with an Excel spreadsheet."



A nurse at the Marang District Council Hall vaccination centre in Terengganu yesterday extracting a dose of the Covid-19 vaccine made by Sinovac. PIC BY SHAKIL KION

	PRAYER TIMES					
	SUBUH	SYURUK	DHUR	ASAR	MAGHRIB	ISYAK
	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time
Melaka	5:49	7:03	1:13	4:38	7:20	8:35
Penang	5:51	7:04	1:20	4:44	7:32	8:48
K. Lumpur	5:50	7:03	1:16	4:41	7:25	8:40
Johor Baru	5:44	6:58	1:07	4:32	7:12	8:28
Kuantan	5:45	6:59	1:10	4:35	7:18	8:33
Ipoh	5:50	7:01	1:18	4:44	7:29	8:44