

Penang aims to dispense over 19, 200 vaccine jabs daily



By R. SEKARAN

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THE Penang government hopes to achieve its target of dispensing 19, 210 doses of Covid-19 vaccine daily with the opening of more vaccine-dispensing centres (PPV) in the state.

Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow said he hoped there won't be a vaccine supply disruption once all the PPVs are opened as planned.

He hoped the Covid-19 Vaccine Supply Access Guarantee Special Committee (JKKAV) would not face problem in supplying vaccine, as what had been told by the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry.

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Sim (blue shirt) and Kumaresan (second, left) visiting the vaccination centre at Setia SPICE arena in Bayan Lepas, Penang.

“Some PPVs have been opened, some will be opened and there are those that have been planned to be opened.

“Once all the PPVs have been opened as planned, we hope the JKKAV would ensure enough vaccine supply to the state,” he said after visiting one of the latest PPVs at the Pesta site in Sungai Nibong on Thursday.

Also present were state exco member Yeoh Soon Hin, northeast district health officer Datin Dr Azizah Abdul Manan and Northeast District officer Rosli Halim.

Chow also gave an assurance that economic frontliners would be vaccinated with the set up of additional PPVs.

Meanwhile, Dr Azizah said the health department was targeting to vaccinate about 322, 000 to 340, 000 people, or 80% of the population in the northeast district to achieve herd immunity.

“Although record shows 268, 000 people have registered with MySejahtera, only 38, 000 people in the district have been vaccinated so far,” she said.

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Meanwhile, Bayan Baru residents will be eligible for a RM1, 000 lucky draw cash prize once they have completed their two vaccine doses.

But first, Bayan Baru MP Sim Tze Tzin said they must register through his service centre or mobile outreach programme to be eligible for the monthly lucky draw.

“At least 10% of the people did not turn up for their vaccination appointment.

“We are offering this token sum as an incentive for the public to complete their doses.

“This kind of incentive is nothing new. In Hong Kong, the people there are entitled to a lucky draw offering cash vouchers and houses as prizes,” said Sim after visiting the mega PPV at Setia SPICE Arena in Bayan Lepas with Batu Uban assemblyman A. Kumaresan.

Sim said the private sector should also step up and do their part in getting more people vaccinated.

“This is a national programme which needs the participation of all.

“The government too should look into state or federal sponsored lotteries as an incentive as we need to create herd immunity by the next few months,” he said.

On the issue of people who didn’t turn up for vaccination, Sim said most them, especially the senior citizens, were not aware as the registrations were done by their children.

“Another issue is transportation, which we are presently handling through the Village Community Management Council members to bring people to the vaccination centre and send them back,” he said.

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