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# Careful deliberation needed before allowing children to be vaccinated, says Khairy



By [Tharanya Arumugam](#) - June 26, 2021 @ 3:49pm



Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme (NIP) coordinating minister Khairy Jamaluddin said the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA) has approved the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for use in children aged 12 years and above. -NSTP/FAIZ ANUAR



on is needed before the government d-19 Comirnaty vaccine to be d between 12 and 16 years old.

rogramme (NIP) coordinating minister al Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency NTech vaccine for use in children

aged 12 years and above.

However, he said the Special Committee on Covid-19 Vaccine Supply Access Guarantee (JKJAV) had yet to make any decision on its usage for this age group, following concerns over possible side effects and adverse reactions.

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"We discussed the matter at the JKJAV meeting on Thursday and decided that it requires further deliberation before we can allow the vaccine to be used on children and teenagers below 18.

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"The technical working group, comprising health and science experts under JKJAV, are of the view that much detailed study needs to be conducted prior to approving it, policy wise.

"We will be having another meeting on Wednesday next week to discuss this. There are some concerns with the side effects or adverse reactions if the Pfizer vaccine is administered in children and teenagers."

The Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation said this at a press conference here today after reviewing the process of administering Covid-19 vaccine to pregnant mothers at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre (MITEC) vaccination centre (PPV).

The European Medicines Agency, US Food and Drug Administration and the US Centres for Disease Control have expanded the emergency use authorisation for the Comirnaty vaccine to adolescents aged between 12 and 15.

...from trials of its vaccine in this age group and a strong immune response. ...proved the vaccine for this age group ...dom, Italy and Hong Kong. The ...ne, has already been approved for use



Following this, Malaysian experts have recommended the government start administering the vaccine to young people between 12 and 15-years-old.

This, they said would protect them against the virus and newer variants as well as accelerate the country's vaccination drive.

From Jan 25, last year, to May 30, this year, 82,341 children in Malaysia have been infected, comprising those aged 13 to 17 (27,402 cases), 7 to

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have been infected, comprising those aged 18 to 17 (27,402 cases), 7 to 12 years (26,851), 5 and 6 (8,237) and infants to 4 years (19,851).

Epidemiologist Professor Datuk Dr Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud, who is also head of the Independent Covid-19 Vaccination Advisory Committee (ICVAC) was earlier reported saying that plans should be made to ensure children are vaccinated sooner.

When the ICVAC suggested that 80 per cent of the population needed to be vaccinated, he said this included children under the age of 18 as they constitute almost 30 per cent of the population.

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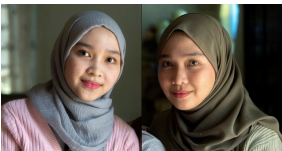


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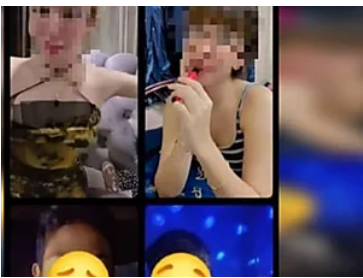
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