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P-hailing service getting MyCC's



'Speed up jobs for gig workers'

By [Dawn Chan](#) - July 24, 2021 @ 9:20am



Many e-hailing and p-hailing drivers are urging to the government to speed up vaccination process for them. - NSTP file pic

KUALA LUMPUR: Drivers with the e-hailing and p-hailing industry are urging the government to expedite the Covid-19 vaccination process for them.

They fear that being unvaccinated will not only continue to put them at risk but also the lives of their families.

One p-hailing rider, who only wished to be known as Ijal, has been infected with Covid-19 once and does not wish to endure the ordeal again.

Fear of being exposed to the virus has seen him greatly reduce his daily working hours, taking on fewer deliveries for his usual routes along Cheras and Kota Damansara.

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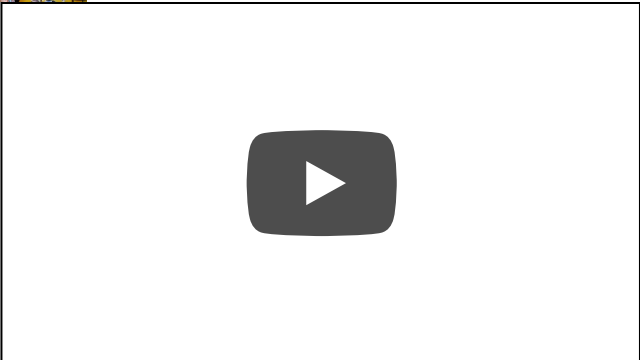
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from economic shocks

- P-hailing service issues getting MyCC's attention

This has led to the father of three earning five times less than what he used to take home.

Ijal believes he contracted Covid-19 in April in the line of work. This, he said, was because there were times when he was not informed ahead that customers were those with pink quarantine bands. Some also paid him in cash, which increased chances of physical contact.



Ijal.

"After I recovered, I decided to cut down on my hours. My wife was recently infected too and was quarantined at home.

"It made me realise that I needed to protect myself as I'm unvaccinated. I'm taking on fewer deliveries. I've also re-budgeted my car, house, motorcycle loan repayments and earn just enough to cover the expenses.

"I no longer set a target of making RM150 daily, at least not until I get vaccinated," he told the *New Straits Times*.

Ijal said despite registering on MySejahtera since February, he has yet to get an appointment, either from the app or from his p-hailing company.

He voiced his disappointment at the lack of effort to prioritise p-hailing and e-hailing drivers despite categorising them as "gig economy frontliners".

Those in the industry, he said, should have been inoculated at the same time as other frontliners, such as the police and healthcare workers.

"However, now that the government has announced it, we hope that they will not just talk about it and drag on further.

"If there was an option to get the jabs at private health facilities, we would have gone for it a long time ago. We are worried for our own protection, what more with the presence of the Delta variant," he added.



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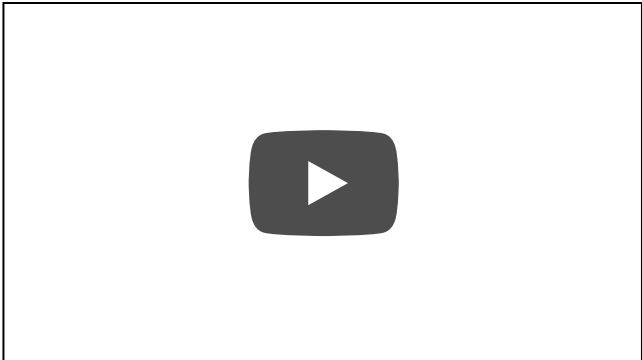
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Kamarul Azman Zakaria.

Another p-hailing rider, Kamarul Azman Zakaria, said despite his concerns over Covid-19, he had to continue working to support his elderly parents.

The 28-year-old from Ampang, who has been a p-hailing rider for two years, takes on about 30 deliveries daily in his 12-hour shift.

"I have no choice. I wear face masks, use sanitisers, limit any contact and hope for the best.

"Sure, I'm very scared of being infected. But I have to keep on earning," said Kamarul Azman, who has yet to be vaccinated.

Persatuan Penghantar P-Hailing Malaysia deputy chairman Mohd Hedrhin Ramli said they have not received any news on the vaccination exercise, despite Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme (NIP) coordinating minister Khairy Jamaluddin announcing that it would start early this month.

"We have not been asked to submit any names nor received any requests for a list of vaccine recipients. We're still waiting," he said.

Hedrhin said there are over 5,000 riders in the Klang Valley, with 85 per cent still unvaccinated.



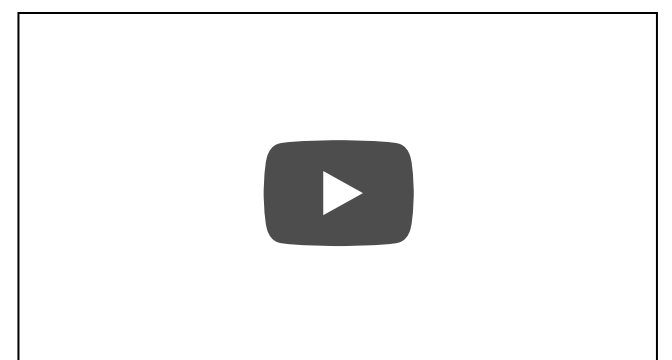
Persatuan Penghantar P-Hailing Malaysia deputy chairman Mohd Hedrhin Ramli.

"The majority are under 28 years old. According to the NIP, this group will get their jabs later. We hope it won't take too long as they need to continue working and earn a living.

"We are open to working with the government to hasten the process, including the setting up of a designated vaccination centre," he said.

Hedrhin said there have been instances of riders becoming infected with Covid-19 but the source of infection could not be determined.

"As there has also been an increase in riders of late, it would be wise to quickly vaccinate them to curb any potential spread. This will also increase public confidence in their service."

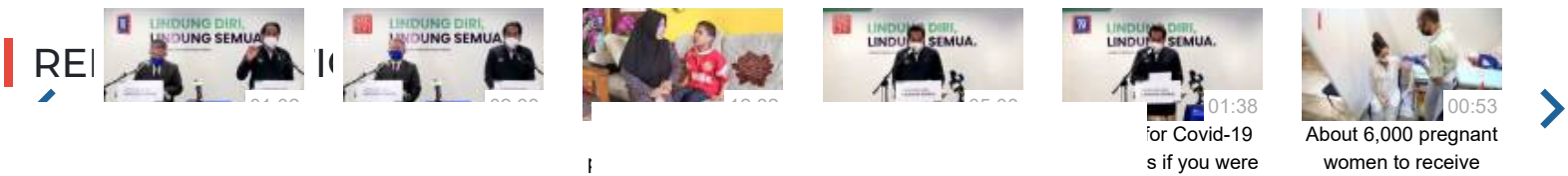
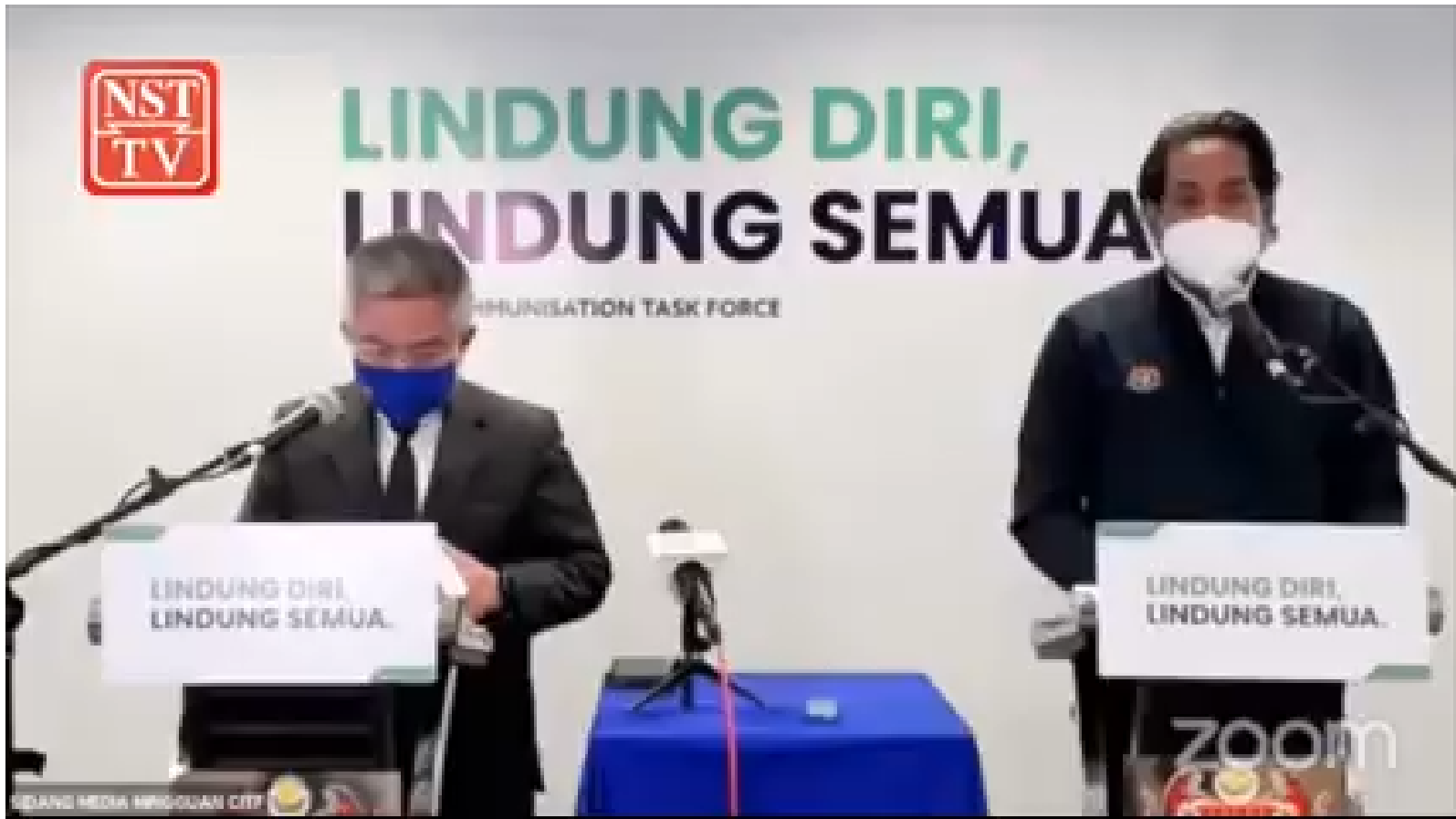


On Tuesday, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong said agencies under the ministry had been ordered to compile names of e-hailing and p-hailing drivers and riders to be vaccinated.

Dr Wee said it was crucial that their vaccination exercise was accelerated as the transport sector was categorised as an essential service to ensure people nationwide receive their daily necessities and goods and necessary movements were unhindered.

"As I have announced before, the scheduling process of vaccination for taxis and e-hailing drivers as well as p-hailing riders is underway, which will start with about 41,488 taxi and e-hailing drivers and 11,527 p-hailing riders," he was quoted as saying.

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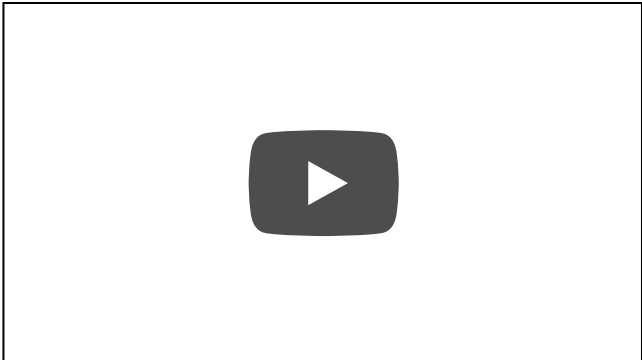


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