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Khairy says Covid-19 vaccine recognition must be discussed at international level

Saturday, 03 Jul 2021 07:50 PM MYT



A general view of the Coronavac Covid-19 vaccine at Dewan Seri Siantan in Selayang June 28, 2021. — Picture by Hari Anggara.

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KUALA LUMPUR, July 3 —The issue over vaccine recognition must be discussed and clarified at the international level so that there is no discrimination, said Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Khairy Jamaluddin.

He said Malaysia’s stance is that if the vaccine is accepted by the World Organisation (WHO), then other countries should also recognise

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“Malaysia also hopes that there will be no discrimination as to where the vaccines were manufactured because the same formula are being used at all AstraZeneca manufacturing plants.



“Whether the plant is in Europe, India, South Korea or Thailand the vaccine is the same,” he told reporters after visiting the Mines Vaccination Centre (PPV) in Seri Kembangan near here today.

He said this when asked to comment on claims that the European Union (EU) only recognises Vaxzeria (AstraZeneca vaccine) which has been approved by the European Medicines Agency (EMA).

Khairy who is also the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme (PICK) Coordinating Minister said the move not to recognise vaccines manufactured by certain plants, was seen as unfair.

As such, Khairy said he would seek clarification from the European Union (EU) representative in the country regarding the EU decision.

He said Malaysia was also in the midst of discussing vaccine recognition with other countries, including Saudi Arabia.

“A majority of the Muslim countries such as Indonesia, Pakistan and Turkey, including Malaysia are using the vaccine from China which is recognised by WHO.

“So if Saudi Arabia says it does not recognise (the vaccine from China) how are pilgrims from these countries going to perform the Haj next year,” he said.

When asked whether those who have completed two doses of the vaccine would be given flexibility, Khairy said the guidelines were being drafted by the Special Committee on Covid-19 Vaccine Supply Access Guarantee (JKJAV) to be presented to the National Security Council (MKN).

“The set of guidelines on ‘what you can do once you are fully vaccinated’ is expected to be ready next month.

“However, with the fast spreading of the Covid-19 Delta variant, this calls for more caution,” he said.

On the Mines PPV, Khairy said currently 5,000 vaccine doses are being administered daily and the number is expected to increase to 10,000 doses by next week as the number of second dose recipients will also increase by then.”

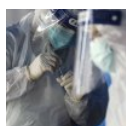
This will help boost the country’s vaccination rate to 300,000 doses a day,” he added. — Bernama

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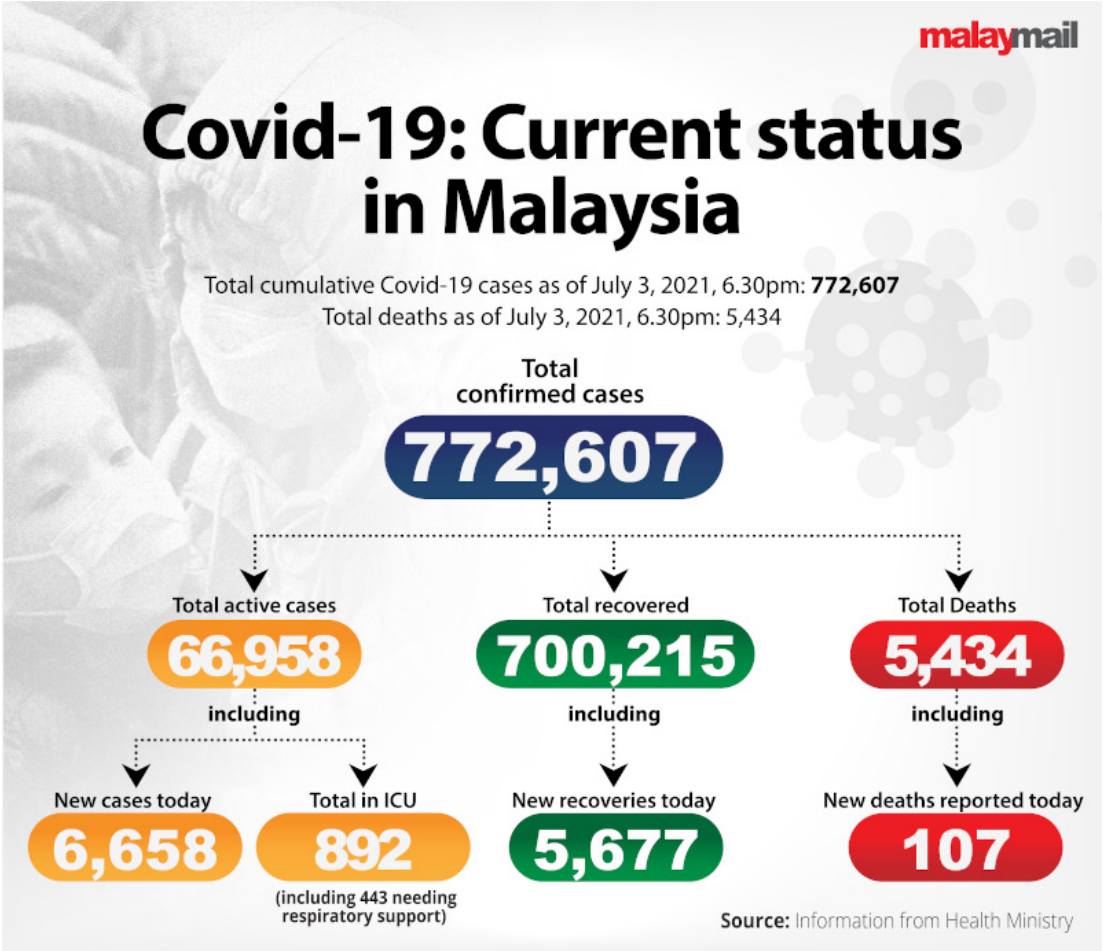


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