

LAUNCH OF HANDBOOK

# PM URGES EVERYONE TO GET COVID-19 VACCINATION

It will break virus transmission chain and set the path to economic recovery

ADIB POVERA  
PUTRAJAYA  
news@nst.com.my

**P**RIME Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has urged all Malaysians, as well as foreigners, in the country to be vaccinated against Covid-19.

He said even though the government had not made it mandatory for people to be vaccinated, doing so would help the programme meet its objectives and put the country on the path to economic recovery.

He said the implementation of the vaccination programme, which would be carried out comprehensively, was important to achieve herd immunity to break the transmission chain and ultimately end the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Vaccination is very important not only to protect ourselves, but also our loved ones, family members, co-workers, neighbours and the community," he said at the launch of the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme Handbook yesterday.

The launch was held virtually in line with the standard operating procedures (SOP) enforced under the Movement Control Order 2.0 (MCO 2.0).

Present were Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Khairy Jamaluddin and Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba.

At the same event, Muhyiddin also officially unveiled the slogan for the vaccination programme, "Protect Oneself, Protect Everyone" (Lindungi Satu, Lindungi Semua).

Muhyiddin said once everyone had been protected and the

Covid-19 immunisation programme had been executed successfully, the positive impact would be felt by all.

He cited the economic sector, which would benefit from it, including the tourism industry.

"We can once again visit each other and conduct sporting activities, but under the new normal. This is what I meant when I said the vaccine is a light of hope for us to win in the fight against Covid-19."

"It will open a new chapter with the rollout of the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme at the end of the month."

He said the government was going all out to ensure that everyone had access to the vaccine.

"That is why we have made the decision for the vaccine to be given free."

Muhyiddin said those who refused inoculation could face restraints in moving around or engaging in businesses in future.

"For example, a country may introduce requirements once it has reached a stage where most of its people have been vaccinated."

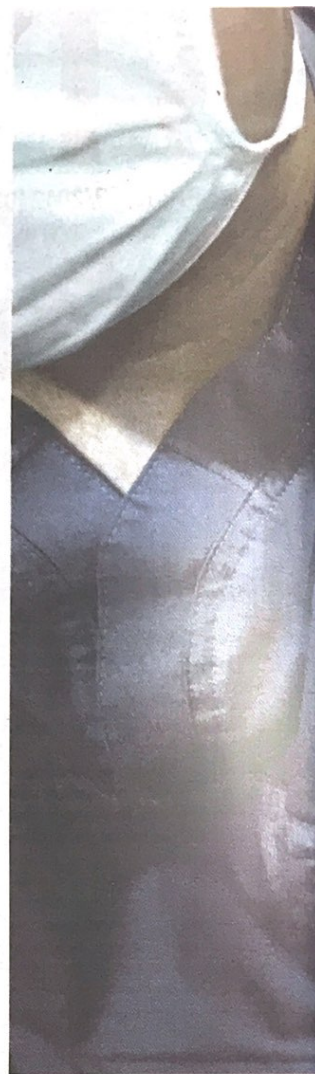
"The requirement would likely be in the form of a (health) passport for visitors to prove they have been vaccinated as a move to protect locals. And if you are not vaccinated, there could be restraints on you to travel and move around."

He said the government would engage government agencies, non-governmental organisations, as well as society leaders to encourage people to register for the Covid-19 vaccination.

"We will also engage leaders in rural areas including village heads, development and security committee leaders as well as the Orang Asli Development Department."

"(The government is hoping that with their assistance) they can help to encourage vaccination among people living in the interiors of Sabah and Sarawak."

He said recipients of the Covid-19 vaccine would be screened for



The first batch of the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine will arrive in Malaysia on Sunday. PIC

BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

their medical history and allergies. This was to ensure their suitability before receiving the vaccine.

Individuals who were not fit to receive the Covid-19 vaccine would not be given the jab.

"After a recipient has been given the jab, they will be monitored for 15 to 30 minutes at the vaccination centre, before they are allowed to return home."

"This is to ensure the recipient does not suffer serious allergic reactions after receiving the vaccine jab."

Muhyiddin said the first batch of the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine would arrive in the country on Sunday, earlier than the month-end target.

He said following the arrival of the vaccines, jointly developed by the American and German pharmaceutical giants, the government would roll out the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme on Feb 26.

Muhyiddin confirmed that he and frontliners would be inoculated on the first day of the programme.

"As announced previously, the





National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme will be carried out in three stages.

"The first phase, from Feb 26 until April this year, will involve frontliners, followed by high-risk groups, who will receive the vaccine during the second stage (of the programme), which will take place from April until August this year.

"The third phase of the programme will be from May until February next year and it will involve adults aged 18 and above," he said.

Khairy, who is also the coordinating minister for the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme, said the first shipment involving 312,390 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine will be flown into the country using a flight operated by MAB Kargo Sdn Bhd (MASKargo).

"As announced by PM @MuhyiddinYassin, we will receive our first shipment of Pfizer vaccines on Feb 21.

"A MASKargo flight will bring 312,390 doses of the vaccine to the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, where it will be sorted and sent to various vaccine storage sites around the country," Khairy said on his official Twitter account.

## MPs, reps to be among first to get jabs

**PUTRAJAYA:** Members of parliament and state assemblymen from both sides of the political divide will be among the earliest recipients of the Covid-19 vaccine under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme, which is expected to commence on Feb 26.

Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the matter was being mullied by the government after taking into consideration the nature of work of MPs and state assemblymen, who worked closely with people on the ground.

"We have agreed for MPs and state assemblymen, irrespective of the political divide, to be included in the first phase of the immunisation programme. This is to allow them to carry out their duties effectively and in a safe manner," he said at a press conference yesterday.

Earlier, Muhyiddin launched the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme Handbook, which can be downloaded at

[www.VaksinCovid.gov.my](http://www.VaksinCovid.gov.my).

Present were Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Khairy Jamaluddin and Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba.

Muhyiddin said he had instructed Khairy and Dr Adham, who jointly chaired the Special Committee on Covid-19 Vaccine Supply Access Guarantee, to meet leaders of all political parties to discuss the matter.

"*Insyallah* (God Willing), we will implement the programme once the (first batch of the Covid-19) vaccine arrives in the country," he said.

The government, said Muhyiddin, would also take into consideration requests from other groups, including the National Union of the Teaching Profession and National Union of Journalists Malaysia, to be among the first to receive the Covid-19 vaccine.

"We will take into consideration all requests or applications, including people in the

media industry and, of course, teachers, who, in certain categories, are defined as frontliners, as well as other groups in the community.

"As far as I am concerned, people in these categories can be vaccinated at the earlier part of the programme due to the nature of their duties and responsibilities, which involves (meeting) a lot of people.

"If we believe they will be at risk if they are not vaccinated, we will consider them among the first recipients of the Covid-19 vaccine."

Khairy, who is also the coordinating minister for the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme, said 300,000 doses of Covid-19 vaccine had been prioritised for medical frontliners.

A total of 200,000 doses, he said, would be allocated for non-medical frontliners including security personnel, welfare officers as well as politicians under the first phase of the programme.