

Health Ministry holding engagement sessions to address low takeup of boosters among Malays

By [Tharanya Arumugam](#), [Teh Athira Yusof](#) - February 17, 2022

KUALA LUMPUR: A sense of reluctance to receive the booster dose as well as immunise children under the Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids) programme was high among the Malay community.

Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said following this, the ministry has been implementing engagement sessions with the public to answer all concerns and issues circulating online regarding vaccination.

"We are not seeing this as a racial issue but it is shown that one race has a higher booster rate compared to others.

"If we do not take this into account then we are not able to form an intervention. It is a huge challenge, but we are trying to address this because the Malays believe in the Illuminati," he said at a virtual press conference today.

On Feb 11, Khairy posted a graph on his Twitter profile showing the current status of individuals based on race in the country in receiving the Covid-19 booster dose.

He said the daily booster doses have been increasing and that the shot will provide good coverage during the spread of the Omicron variant.

"Eighty per cent of the Chinese community have received the booster dose. Need better communication on Facebook as Malays are less than 50 per cent. Sarawak is the best," he said in the tweet.

As of Feb 11, the Chinese community recorded 81.3 per cent having received the booster dose followed by the Indian community at 56.4 per cent; others (50.6 per cent), Orang Asli, Bumiputera and others (49.6 per cent) and Malays (47.9 per cent).