

Final day for children to receive first Covid-19 vaccine dose is May 15

By Hana Naz Harun - April 13, 2022 @ 7:57pm



The final day for children to receive their first Covid-19 vaccination dose under the Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids) is May 15. - NSTPAZIAH AZMEE

KUALA LUMPUR: The final day for children to receive their first Covid-19 vaccination dose under the Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids) is May 15.

Deputy Health Minister I Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali said the ministry would no longer be offering first doses for the Cominarty and CoronaVac Covid-19 vaccines for children aged between five and 12 starting May 16.

"With this announcement, parents of children who have not received their Covid-19 vaccine must make a decision on vaccination before May 15.

"After this date, the Cominarty Covid-19 vaccine for children will no longer be offered in any public or private health facility in Malaysia. The Coronvac vaccine can only be obtained at private facilities for a fee," he said in a statement today.

He added that this decision would not involve vaccinations for children who were born in 2017 and have not reached the age of five by May 15, 2022.

Children in this category can obtain the Covid-19 vaccination by registering through the MySejahtera app. Details for vaccination for this group would be made available soon, he said.

Dr Noor Azmi, who is also Covid-19 Immunisation Task Force-Children (CITF-C) chairman, said the low vaccine uptake had caused high wastage.

"As the trend for requests for vaccination among parents for children has reduced, the Health Ministry has reviewed the implementation period of PICKids.

"To prevent the wastage of unused children Cominarty vaccines within six months after it was manufactured, an end date to the first dose must be made."

As at April 12, a total of 1,371,120 or 38.6 per cent of children have received at least their first dose of the vaccine, and 195,865 have received their second dose, with an average of 4,500 first doses administered since the last seven days.

He also said parents who had registered their children in MySejahtera but have not been inoculated would be contacted by Health Ministry personnel whether through phone, social media or home visits to be vaccinated.

"Parents who agree will be given an appointment before the last date for the first dose, and parents who have yet to register their children for the Covid-19 vaccine can do so through MySejahtera by May 8.

"This is to enable a link to the appointment system to be provided before the first dose deadline. I urge parents who have yet to decide not to pass the opportunity to get the vaccine for free under PICKids before the final date.

"Choose to vaccinate your children to avoid severe Covid-19 complications," he said.

Meanwhile, Dr Noor Azmi also said CITF-C had agreed to make amendments to the Covid-19 Vaccine consent form for children aged 18 and below.

"The new form will no longer include the clause 'I am responsible for the risks that may happen to the child for my decision/action as the benefits of the vaccine outweigh its side effects'.

"The removal of this clause is to prevent confusion and express existing practices of which the Health Ministry has never neglected, and is always ready to provide appropriate health assistance when there are side effects related to the reception of the vaccine," he said.