

Second Covid-19 booster also available for travellers to select countries

By Adib Povera, Hana Naz Harun - April 14, 2022 @ 6:36pm



Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said some European countries do not recognise specific Covid-19 vaccines such as Sinovac and Sinopharm as the primary vaccination and booster shot. -BERNAMA PIC

KUALA LUMPUR: The second Covid-19 booster shot facility, recommended for senior citizens with high comorbidities, will also be expanded to people travelling to countries which only recognises certain types of vaccines.

Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said some European countries do not recognise specific Covid-19 vaccines such as Sinovac and Sinopharm as the primary vaccination and booster shot.

"Those planning to travel abroad to these countries may apply to get their second booster shot at least one month after receiving their first booster injection.

"For example, if they received Sinovac as their primary vaccination and Pfizer as their booster shot, but they want to fly to Germany... we will consider their request to be given a second jab using the Pfizer vaccine," he told reporters in Parliament today.

Khairy said based on surveillance and reviews conducted by the ministry, there are a number of countries such as Iceland, Luxembourg, Malta, Bulgaria and others which do not recognise the Sinovac vaccine.

However, he said some European countries such as France which recognise the Sinovac vaccine as a primary dose, provided that the traveller has been inoculated with a messenger RNA (mRNA) type vaccine.

Khairy also explained why the government had approved Sinovac as one of the vaccines administered under the Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme.

"Firstly, this is because we did not know that there are countries that do not recognise this (type of) vaccine. Nevertheless, there are also countries which recognise Sinovac such as Australia and the United Kingdom.

"Secondly, our advice at the time was to take the vaccine available (in order to increase the country's vaccination coverage)," he said.