

Khairy: No grounds to avoid vaccines wholly

THOSE allergic to a particular vaccine cannot use this as a reason to avoid vaccination entirely, says Khairy Jamaluddin.”

Those seeking not to take the vaccine on medical grounds such as allergies, must get their condition certified by the district health officer. “The health officer will recommend that a different vaccine be given instead.

“For example, if the person is allergic to Pfizer, they will be offered Sinovac instead,” the Health Minister told Isnaraissah Munirah Majilis (Warisan-Kota Belud).

Khairy noted that those who were unable to get vaccinated due to health reasons could apply to get the exemption notifications on their MySejahtera app, or vaccination exemption on MySejahtera through the district health office.

However, he said registered medical practitioners would need to verify their condition.

He said they would be required to go to the district health office and submit a special assessment slip.

Suitability of Covid-19 vaccines for patients facing certain health ailments would be verified by these specialists.

“The digital certificate through MySejahtera will be obtained within a week if the application submitted is complete and meets the stipulated conditions,” he added.

On anti-vaxxers and those under the “vaccine hesitant” group, Khairy said they would be subjected to strict standard operating procedures as preventive measures against them spreading the virus.

“We have already announced some freedom for the fully vaccinated which are not for those who are still adamant about not getting vaccinated. With this approach, I hope those who still do not want to get vaccinated will go for their vaccinations,” he added.

He said that the ministry will also be relying on data to educate the public on the importance of vaccines among the vaccine hesitant.

Those under the “vaccine hesitant” group, Khairy said, were a minority.

“Based on information from the Statistics Department, 94.3% of adults in the country have received at least one dose of the vaccine so far with 87.6% completing their full dose.

“This shows that the number of unvaccinated individuals is low,” he added.

He noted that the Public Service Department has also made it mandatory for all civil servants to receive the Covid-19 vaccine.

“I believe that the private sector will also be following suit to make it compulsory for their employees to be vaccinated,” he added.

As of last week, 98% of civil servants had been vaccinated, with the remaining 1.6% (16,902 people) yet to register.

<https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2021/10/05/khairy-no-grounds-to-avoid-vaccines-wholly>