

Sabah reaches 60 pct Covid-19 vaccination

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah is on track to reach herd immunity before the end of October after having fully vaccinated 60 per cent of its adult population against Covid-19.

Sabah Covid-19 spokesman Datuk Seri Masidi Manjun said as of yesterday, 59.4 per cent of Sabah's adult population had completed two doses of the vaccine.

"It can be assumed that the vaccination percentage of Sabah's adult population has reached 60 per cent on Sept 21. The percentage shows that Sabah is on a good track," he said in a statement today.

The Sabah government had set a target of reaching 60 per cent full inoculation of its adult population by Sept 21 and aspires to reach herd immunity as early as Oct 31.

The state had been focused on increasing its vaccination rate and restricting most movements to only those who are fully vaccinated to contain the chain of infection.

Masidi said the percentage of Sabahans who have been vaccinated is actually higher than the current data shown.

"According to the Department of Statistics Sabah's adult population numbers 2,758,400.

"There are many Sabahans in Peninsular Malaysia at present, which is part of the Sabah population statistics.

"For example, a total of 171,963 food baskets were distributed to the Head of Household (KIR) of Sabahans currently residing in Peninsular Malaysia.

"Many of these Sabahans have been vaccinated in Peninsular Malaysia. About 200,000 Sabahans have been vaccinated in Peninsula, thus, the percentage of the Sabah's population that has been vaccinated is higher than our official data," said Masidi.

Masidi also reminded Sabahans to comply with standard operating procedures (SOP) to curb the spread of Covid-19 infection as based on the statistic, many vaccinated people could still contract the virus.

"Today, new Covid-19 infections in Sabah continued to decline to 1,199.

"Out of the 1,199 caseload, 503 cases were those who were fully vaccinated while 68 cases had received one dose of the vaccine.

"Another 371 positive cases involved unvaccinated people, while 257 cases involved those who were not eligible for the vaccine," he said, adding that 558 cases of the caseload were backlogged cases.

Masidi added that close contact screenings remained the highest contributor to the tally with 720 cases (60.1 per cent) followed by 367 cases (30.6 per cent) from symptomatic screenings.

Sabah registered 87 fatalities – 24 in Sandakan, 14 in Tawau, eight in Tuaran, six in Kota Kinabalu, five each in Lahad Datu and Keningau, four in Kota Marudu, three each in Ranau and Kota Belud, two each in Beaufort, Kinabatangan, Penampang, Beluran, Semporna and Papar, and one each in Nabawan, Kalabakan and Tongod.

The number of deaths does not necessarily reflect occurrences within 24 hours as some deaths take time to verify and were reported later than the actual date, he said.

Meanwhile, 1,478 patients recovered (cumulatively 165,858), while 3,820 patients are undergoing treatment at hospital, temporary detention centres and private facilities, among others.

<https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2021/09/729807/sabah-reaches-60-pct-covid-19-vaccination>