

Daily vaccinations to hit peak in August, says Khairy

PETALING JAYA: As the government accelerates the pace of its nationwide vaccination programme, the number of Covid-19 vaccine doses administered daily is set to peak in the next two months, says Khairy Jamaluddin.

The target is to reach a daily average of 389,589 doses in July and 433,796 doses in August, up from the estimated 177,567 doses in June.

The vaccination pace will then gradually decrease post-August, reaching 80,726 doses daily on average by December this year.

Khairy, who is the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme Coordinating Minister, described the target as “conservative estimates”.

Speaking during a virtual media briefing yesterday, he said that between June 1 to 18, a total of 139,016 vaccine doses had been administered on average everyday.

Given the accelerated speed of vaccinations especially since May, Khairy expressed optimism that the government’s target to inoculate 80% of the population could be achieved even before December. He pointed out that vaccinations in east coast states such as Kelantan and Terengganu would be ramped up further in the next several months to avoid the monsoon season, which begins from November.

Khairy said states such as Selangor and Sarawak, as well as Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya and Labuan could achieve “herd immunity” before September if the pace of vaccination runs as expected.

“If Selangor wants to vaccinate 80% of its population to reach herd immunity, its average daily doses administered must touch 135,948 by July and 165,096 by August,” he said. “Hence, if we want to achieve our target, we need to hit daily vaccination in excess of 400,000 doses by August,” he added.

Meanwhile, Khairy highlighted that the government has secured adequate supply of vaccines amounting to 73.1 million doses, covering 119.7% of the total population or about 38.3 million individuals.

In comparison, Malaysia’s population was estimated at 32.7 million in 2020, according to the Statistics Department.

The biggest vaccine supply will come from Pfizer-BioNTech at about 44.8 million doses. These would cover 22.4 million Malaysians. The remaining 28.3 million doses will comprise AstraZeneca (6.4 million), Sinovac (12 million) and CanSino (3.5 million) vaccines, as well as those procured through the World Health Organisation's Covax programme (6.4 million).

Three vaccine types will be provided through Covax, namely AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson's Janssen and Novavax.

Khairy also pointed out that the government is looking at procuring 6.4 million doses of Russia's Sputnik V vaccine.

However, the vaccine is still subject to approval from the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency.

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