

# Vaccination to start on Feb 26

## > PM to be first to receive Covid drug at launch of national immunisation programme

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia is set to roll out on Feb 26 the biggest vaccination exercise it has ever undertaken in a massive effort to immunise its population against Covid-19. The first shipment of the vaccine is scheduled to be delivered five days earlier, on Feb 21.

Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin will take the lead in getting vaccinated on Feb 26, along with several frontliners, under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme that is scheduled to stretch until February next year.

He disclosed details of the exercise when he launched a handbook yesterday on the immunisation programme, that applies the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. The handbook, which carries the tagline "Lindung Diri, Lindung Semua" (Protect Oneself, Protect Everyone), can be downloaded from [www.vaksinovid.gov.my](http://www.vaksinovid.gov.my).

"The handbook provides details of the

immunisation programme and will serve as reference for policy makers and implementers as well as the people," Muhyiddin said during the virtual launch of the handbook, that was broadcast live over television and social media.

The immunisation programme will be carried out in three phases, with the first phase from Feb 26 to April, followed by the second phase from April to August and the third phase from May to February next year, Bernama reported.

According to the handbook, 500,000 people will be covered in the first phase, covering frontliners comprising government and private sector healthcare workers as well as essential and security services frontliners.

Up to 9.4 million people will be immunised in the second phase, comprising staff in the healthcare, essential and security services as well as individuals aged 65 and above, high-risk groups suffering from chronic ailments such as

heart disease, obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure, and people with disabilities.

Some 13.7 million people are targeted in the (third phase, comprising those aged 18 and above (both citizens and non-citizens). Priority will be given to Covid-19 red, yellow and green zones, in that order.

Muhyiddin added that implementation of the comprehensive immunisation programme is to ensure herd immunity in the community to break the chain of infection.

"The various economic sectors, such as tourism, will reopen. We can go on visits, we can engage in sports activities, but while practising the new norm. This is what I meant when I said that the vaccine is our most important ray of hope to win the battle against Covid-19.

"Surely, a new chapter will open with the start of the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme at the end of this month."

While advising the people not to take immunisation lightly, he urged them to register for vaccination and make time to receive their two doses of the vaccine.

As of this month, Malaysia has secured access to 66.7 million doses of the vaccine through the Covax Facility from five producers.



Muhyiddin at the launch of the handbook in Putrajaya yesterday.