



UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

**SPEECH TEXT
YAB PRIME MINISTER**

FACILITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE RECEIVED COMPLETE VACCINATION

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh

1. How is everyone? I pray for all the brothers and sisters to be in good health. God willing.
2. On 15 June 2021, I announced the National Recovery Plan (NRP) which is a phased exit strategy in an orderly and systematic manner, from the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. This plan is a carefully designed guide based on data and science to allow us all to return to normal daily life or back to normalcy.
3. Alhamdulillah in just two months, the Federal Territory (FT) of Labuan along with eight other states have successfully moved out of Phase 1 of NRP. Starting August 4, 2021, Perlis, Sarawak and WP Labuan have moved to Phase 3 of NRP while six other states are already in Phase 2. This shows that the recovery efforts are progressing as planned.
4. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the people and the state governments of Perlis, Sarawak, and Labuan on the success of moving to Phase 3. However, let us not easily forget and fall asleep. I hope that the SOPs and rules that have been set can be adhered to as much as possible and all efforts to improve the pandemic situation in their respective states continue.
5. To the states that have not yet moved on to the next phase, we increase our efforts and efforts so that we can move to the next phase safely.
6. Once again I want to remind you, we should not easily feel comfortable. Right now we are facing the challenge of more violent new variants such as the Delta variant. The transmission rate of these variants is so fast, much faster than the earlier variants a year ago.
7. Look only at the cases reported in the media and those shared in the Whatsapp family and school friends groups, where there are among our family members or friends who are infected. The number of daily cases has now exceeded 20,000 cases and the number of active cases is over 200,000 cases. However, if we refine, the number of daily positive cases for Categories 1 and 2 is still at the level of 96 to 98 percent of the total cases.
8. As I have often explained, one of the government's strategies in managing this pandemic is to ensure that as many people as possible in Malaysia are vaccinated.

9. More people receive complete vaccinations, more people are protected from more serious infections, the burden on the public health system will be reduced and more economic and social sectors can be opened up in stages, and we can get out of this pandemic more orderly and safely.

10. To ensure that vaccinations are given as quickly and as much as possible, especially with the presence of more violent new variants, the government has mobilized the entire government machinery and collaborated with the private sector and non-governmental organizations in a "whole of nation" approach.

11. The simple analogy is that when a person receives a complete dose of vaccination, a person prepares his body with 'soldiers' or antibodies to fight the 'enemy' i.e. germs or diseases. If the 'enemy' comes to attack but, we just want to train the 'soldiers' to fight, it is a bit too late because the body may have to deal with the severe effects of the infection. Therefore, vaccination ensures the production of antibodies in the body earlier to fight dangerous diseases, and in this case the Covid-19 virus

12. Alhamdulillah, thanks to our cooperation, the government's efforts to increase the vaccination rate or "ramping up" the vaccination rate have shown a very proud achievement. It is evident that the people responded to the call and welcomed the government's call to receive vaccinations.

13. From mega Vaccination Centers (PPVs) in cities to mobile PPVs in villages and Orang Asli villages to drive-thru PPVs for the disabled, and to small PPVs in collaboration with private clinics, millions of Malaysians have come out to receive injections of COVID-19 vaccination. There are also NGOs that help provide vaccinations for the elderly who are ill in their homes.

14. Indeed, since the official launch of the National COVID-19 Immunization Program (PICK) on 24 February 2021 and until 6 August 2021, a total of 23.6 million vaccination doses have been given in Malaysia. A total of 15.35 million (65.6%) adults had received the first dose of the vaccine and 8.25 million (35.3%) adults had completed two doses of the vaccine injection.

Since July 12, 2021, the daily vaccination rate has reached over almost 400,000 doses daily and for the first time surpassed the 500,000 dose level on July 22, 2021.

15. Although at first many doubted the government's ability to increase vaccination rates, but thanks to the efforts of all, we managed to prove our ability despite facing various challenges and initial obstacles including stabilizing the supply of vaccines from manufacturing companies.

16. Yesterday, the Coordinating Minister of the National COVID-19 Immunization Program (PICK) YB Khairy Jamaluddin also announced the government's target at the end of this month or the National Day 2021 target is to achieve 50 percent complete vaccination rate of the adult population in Malaysia.

17. Malaysia's achievements in vaccination efforts in the country have also received praise and recognition from foreign countries and international bodies.

18. As the Prime Minister, I have often emphasized in the Special Sessions of the National Security Council (NSC), the National Recovery Council (NRC), and government meetings that the three main aspects that must be given attention in our management of the pandemic are:

a. First: Public Health and Safety;

b. Second: People's Economy and Business Sustainability;

i. The first and second aspects we often refer to as balancing between life and survival; and

c. Third: People's well-being in the context of social norms, including people's mental and emotional health.

19. This third aspect is just as important as the health and economic aspects. Today many of us are directly and indirectly affected by this pandemic. Not only are more of our families and acquaintances infected and some may be killed, but our daily normal lives are also disrupted.

20. Some of us can't go to work and socialize, some have a reduced source of income, run out of savings, and some can't stand sitting at home. I understand, many are tired of this pandemic or facing pandemic fatigue.

21. Taking into account the feedback from the Ministry of Health Malaysia (MOH), the Government is ready to provide facilities to individuals who have received complete vaccination.

22. This decision was made very carefully and it is in line with the data collected in the country on the effectiveness of complete vaccinations as well as the principles of science and public health applied worldwide.

23. It is important to clarify that an individual will only be recognized as an individual who has completed his or her vaccination when he or she has met the following criteria:

a. For vaccine types that require two doses of injection (Pfizer, AstraZeneca, and Sinovac), the individual must have passed the 14th day from the date of the second dose injection; and

b. For vaccine types that require only one dose of injection (Johnson & Johnson and CanSino), the individual must have passed the 28th day from the date of injection.

My dear brothers and sisters,

24. The decision to grant this facility will inevitably risk an increase in the number of daily cases. However, the Government should not underestimate the benefits of complete vaccination and also the role of these facilities on the mental and physical health of the people as well as the country's economic activities.

25. Recipients of a complete vaccine can strengthen the body's immune system against COVID-19 virus infection and protect themselves from getting more severe symptoms of infection, as well as being able to reduce the rate of COVID-19 positive case infections by 50 percent.

26. In the last six weeks, there has been a downward trend in the rate of admission into wards and intensive care units (ICUs) at the Sungai Buloh Hospital for senior citizens aged 60 and above. This situation indicates that the administration of vaccines to the elderly group in phase 2 of PICK which was implemented on 19 April 2021 has begun to produce a positive impact in the context of health.

27. Similarly for MOH staff who have received COVID-19 vaccine since the National COVID-19 Immunization Program (PICK) started on 24 February 2021. A total of 246,242 staff have received complete vaccination and only 4,635 (1.88%) were found to be infected with COVID-19. Of the total number of positive cases, 4,625 (99.78%) experienced only mild or asymptomatic symptoms. While only 7 cases (0.15%) were category 3 and 3 cases (0.06%) were category 4. None of those with category 5 COVID-19 infection required respiratory assistance.

28. Accordingly, the Government agrees to provide QUARANTINE and TRAVEL facilities for individuals who have received complete vaccinations throughout the country and apply to all phases in the National Recovery Plan.

a. The facilities referred to are generally as follows:

i. Citizen and non-citizen travelers who have a residence in Malaysia (including PR and Malaysia MY Second Home) who return or arrive from abroad and have received a full dose vaccine, are ALLOWED to undergo mandatory quarantine at home and are given a Home Surveillance and Observation Order (HSO) digital.

ii. Long-distance married couples who have received a full-dose vaccine are allowed across counties or states to meet their respective spouses.

iii. Parents who have received the full-dose vaccine are allowed across counties and states to see children under the age of 18.

29. I also understand the request of brothers and sisters to return to perform prayers in mosques and surau. Accordingly, the government agreed that only prayer activities are ALLOWED in mosques and surau for congregations who have received complete vaccinations. This facility also applies to all phases of the National Recovery Plan

a. Mosques and surau need to ensure SOP related to public health protocols such as wearing face masks, physical distancing and also ensure that the congregation continues to return home after prayers.

b. Congregants present to perform prayers MUST show the mosque and surau staff a digital certificate of COVID-19 vaccination which shows that the individual has received a complete vaccination.

c. This facility is also provided to non-Muslims to attend houses of worship.

d. The implementation of this facility is subject to the State Religious Authority and the Ministry of National Unity for Houses of Worship Other than Islam.

Dear brothers and sisters,

30. The Government also agreed to provide facilities for the SOCIAL SECTOR to individuals who have received complete vaccination and stay in the states in Phase 2 and beyond.

31. The facilities are generally as follows:

a. Cross-county ALLOWED

i. Individuals wishing to travel cross-district MUST present to security personnel at roadblocks a COVID-19 digital vaccination certificate indicating that the individual has received a complete vaccination.

b. Dine-In activities are ALLOWED

- i. When compared to other social activities, dine-in activities do indeed have a higher risk. This is because the face mask will be opened when eating and also when chatting with a roommate. This exposes the individual to COVID-19 infection.
- ii. In this regard, I would like to advise people to dine in only when necessary and not to spend too much time. The public is also advised to take away if the situation permits. Choose a premise that has a good and open ventilation system.
- iii. I would also like to suggest to the operators of the restaurant premises to provide more dining space outside the premises for better ventilation. We understand that the risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus is significantly higher inside the premises than outside.
- iv. Owners of eatery premises must ensure that those entering the premises for dine-in MUST show a COVID-19 digital vaccination certificate (digital certificate COVID-19 vaccination) which shows that the individual has received a complete vaccination.
- v. For couples who have received a complete vaccination and wish to bring children 17 years of age and under for dine-in at the eatery premises, make sure your children adhere to strict SOPs.

c. Sports and leisure activities without physical contact and not in groups (outdoor) are ALLOWED

- i. Sports and recreational activities are very important to ensure a good level of mental health and physical fitness. Therefore, this activity is allowed by adhering to physical distancing and is performed in open areas (outdoor) including semi-open starting hours 6.00 am to 10.00 pm.
- ii. Dine-in activities in restaurants or cafes on clubhouse premises are PERMITTED per the dine-in permission. Premises owners need to ensure that those entering the premises for dine-in MUST show a COVID-19 digital vaccination certificate showing that the individual has received a complete vaccination.
- iii. The operation of the dressing room or bathroom in the clubhouse premises is NOT PERMITTED. This is to prevent grouping after sports and reduce the risk of infection.
- iv. Permitted activities are jogging, exercise, taichi, cycling, skateboarding, fishing, equestrian, archery, climbing, tennis (singles), badminton (singles), golf, motoring, and the likes.

d. Tourism activities in the same state are ALLOWED to involve homestays and hotels.

- i. Homestay and hotel operators need to ensure that those wishing to enter the premises MUST show a COVID-19 digital vaccination certificate (digital certificate COVID-19 vaccination) which shows that the individual has received a complete vaccination.

32. All the facilities that I announced today will come into effect on TUESDAY, 10 AUGUST 2021. Details of the facilities that I have just announced will be released by the National Security Council (MKN) soon.

33. ECONOMIC SECTOR facilities are being discussed and considered at the NSC Special Session and I will announce them soon.

My dear brothers and sisters,

34. These facilities do not mean that we can ignore the SOPs that have been set. Dine-in facilities and sports activities, in particular, are more at risk for an individual to be infected with the COVID-19 virus.

35. I have directed the Honorable Minister of Home Affairs as the Chairman of the Coordinating Committee for the Enforcement and Compliance of SOP COVID-19, to ensure that the ministries and agencies responsible for intensifying enforcement and monitoring activities on the facilities provided.

36. I would like to emphasize that every ministry and agency that monitors the facilities, including the owner of the premises, **MUST BE FULLY RESPONSIBLE** for the implementation of the facilities provided to ensure that it is implemented per the rules and guidelines that have been set and avoid harm.

37. Measures to control this pandemic also require a concerted effort by the Government and the community. Individuals, community leaders, and businesses need to be vigilant in taking precautions to prevent the spread of this virus.

38. In providing these facilities, the Government will also ensure that public health action strategies that are currently on the right track continue to be implemented preferably, especially through screening tests, close contact detection, isolation measures, as well as improved healthcare capacity and treatment options. which is wider.

39. The Government will not hesitate to withdraw the facilities provided in the event of non-compliance with the guidelines and SOPs that have been set.

40. In the event of an infection in the premises that enjoy these facilities, the MOH will immediately take appropriate measures including re-assessing the risk and not rule out the possibility of immediately closing the premises or areas involved and issuing compounds to parties identified as violating SOPs.

41. We as Malaysians have a shared responsibility in overcoming this COVID-19 pandemic. Indeed, this facility is a testament to the Government's belief that citizens who have received complete vaccinations can make a rational and prudent self-risk assessment in the face of the COVID-19 virus threat that is now rampant in our community. God willing, we win together.

42. Thank you, Wabillahi al-taufiq wal hidayah wassalamu'alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh.

YAB TAN SRI DATO' HAJI MUHYIDDIN BIN HAJI MOHD YASSIN
PRIME MINISTER
8 AUGUST 2021

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