

Hospitals must heed caution if allowing more visitors, says group

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There is concern that more people will be allowed to visit patients in hospitals with 90% of the adult population being fully vaccinated. (Bernama pic)

PETALING JAYA: Hospitals must take precautions if they decide to allow more people to visit patients despite 90% of the adult population being fully vaccinated, the Association of Private Hospitals Malaysia said.

Its president, Dr Kuljit Singh, said whether or not hospitals should allow fully vaccinated visitors would depend on each hospital's policies and the structure of the building.

"Some vulnerable patients with certain diseases may still have restricted visitors as the risk will be high," he told FMT.

Kuljit also said SOPs such as wearing of face masks and physical distancing must continue to be followed.

"Overcrowding with visitors may not be safe for both visitors and patients. Just like everything else, we have to take small steps first."

Meanwhile, the Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) said hospitals must ensure that all visitors are fully vaccinated.

"Overnight companions should also be tested free from Covid-19 if they may come in contact with other inpatients," its president, Dr Koh Kar Chai, said.

"The SOPs to be adopted will also depend on whether the ward has other patients who may be immunocompromised."

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