

Improve Flu Vaccine Supply To Private Facilities — Malaysian Medical Association

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MMA expresses concern about the shortage of flu vaccines in private clinics, as many patients are now asking for their shots. MMA urges MOH and all vaccine suppliers to ensure adequate distribution of flu vaccines to private clinics and hospitals.



Malaysian Medical Association president Dr Kalwinder Singh Khaira speaks at the Industry Leadership Summit 2024 in Kuala Lumpur on October 10, 2024, organised by the Galen Centre for Health and Social Policy and supported by PMCare Sdn Bhd. Photo by Saw

The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) applauds the government's initiative to provide free influenza vaccinations for our elderly population and looks forward to its successful rollout.

We encourage all seniors who are eligible to take full advantage of this programme by registering as soon as possible for the vaccine. The flu vaccine is beneficial especially for the elderly, as it is shown to be effective in protecting against complications from the flu.

Older persons with comorbidities in particular, are at higher risk of complications from the flu which can even lead to hospitalisation and in some cases death; hence taking precautions such as getting vaccinated is strongly advised.

Vaccine Shortages At Private Clinics

The MMA is particularly concerned about the shortage of flu vaccines in private clinics as many patients are now heeding advice and asking for the vaccine.

While we fully support the government's free vaccination programme for high-risk seniors at government clinics, it is equally important to recognise the vital role general practitioners (GPs) play in community vaccination efforts.

We urge the Ministry of Health (MOH) and all vaccine suppliers to ensure adequate distribution of vaccines to private clinics and hospitals to prevent gaps in immunisation coverage. Details on stock availability and delivery timelines is also crucial for better planning.

The MMA is always ready to work with the government and suppliers to ensure timely and equitable vaccine access for all Malaysians.

Dr Kalwinder Singh Khaira is president of the Malaysian Medical Association.