

## **MMA welcomes free flu jab for seniors, urges early registration**

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*The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) has welcomed the government's initiative to provide free influenza vaccination for senior citizens and looks forward to its successful implementation. - NSTP/MOHD ADAM ARININ*

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) has welcomed the government's initiative to provide free influenza vaccination for senior citizens and looks forward to its successful implementation.

MMA president Dr Kalwinder Singh Khaira encouraged all eligible elderly individuals to take full advantage of the programme by registering for the vaccine as soon as possible.

"The flu vaccine is particularly beneficial for the elderly as it has been shown to be effective in preventing complications from influenza.

"Older individuals with comorbidities are at higher risk of severe complications, which could lead to hospitalisation or even death. Hence, taking precautions such as getting vaccinated is strongly advised," he said in a statement today.

MMA also expressed concern over the shortage of flu vaccines at private clinics, noting that many patients were now heeding medical advice and requesting 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," Dr Kalwinder said.

MMA urged the Health Ministry and vaccine suppliers to ensure adequate distribution of flu vaccines to private clinics and hospitals to prevent gaps in immunisation coverage.

"Details on stock availability and delivery timelines are also crucial for better planning," he added.

MMA reiterated its commitment to working with the government and suppliers to ensure timely and equitable vaccine access for all Malaysians.

Before this, the ministry announced that senior citizens aged 60 and above with at least one listed chronic illness can receive the influenza vaccine for free starting Feb 18– BERNAMA