

# MMA chief: Don't put off booster shot

By [Teoh Pei Ying](#), [Sharifah Mahsinah Abdullah](#) - March 28, 2022 @ 9:20am



People receiving a booster shot at the Soka Gakkai vaccine delivery centre in Klang yesterday.  
-NSTP/FAIZ ANUAR

"DON'T gamble with your life." This was the advice of the Malaysian Medical Association to the unvaccinated group.

Its president, Dr Koh Kar Chai, said the risk of contracting the Omicron variant was high.

"Symptoms of Covid-19 with the Omicron variant are mostly mild, (but) this is not always the case.

"If a person's immune system is weak, there is still the possibility of severe symptoms when he is infected with the virus, even if he has been vaccinated, what more those who haven't even received the primary jabs," he said in a statement yesterday.

Dr Koh said people should know that even though the country would transition to endemicity, it still recorded hospitalisations and deaths daily.

"Senior citizens and those with comorbidities who haven't received the booster shot should not delay any further.



*Dr Koh Kar Chai*

"The Omicron variant is highly transmissible and this makes the likelihood of everyone contracting Covid-19 at some point, high.

"So it is best to get the additional protection of a booster shot. Don't gamble with your life. Get the maximum protection from vaccination and a booster shot."

Data on CovidNow showed that up to Saturday, 66.3 per cent of the adult population, or 15,595,578 individuals, had taken their booster shot since the programme rolled out on Oct 13 last year. Nearly 23 million adults have received two doses of a Covid-19 vaccine.

At a press conference on Thursday, Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said about two million people, the majority of whom are

Sinovac recipients, would lose their fully vaccinated status on April 1 if they failed to get the booster jab by then.

Dr Koh said nothing much could be done for those who were adamant about not taking the booster shot.

"There have already been many public awareness campaigns on this. Evidence has shown that those vaccinated with two doses of the Sinovac vaccine will require a booster dose to ensure adequate levels of immunity. This is particularly so for the elderly as well as those with comorbidities."

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, in a statement yesterday, said there was a slight drop in the number of new Covid-19 infections to 20,923 cases on Saturday.

He said 115 cases were in categories 3, 4 and 5. The remaining 20,808 cases were in categories 1 and 2.

He said 48 cases in categories 3, 4 and 5 had completed two doses of a vaccine, 34 had a booster shot and 33 were either unvaccinated or received only one dose of a vaccine.

"73 cases were aged 60 and above, 63 had comorbidities, and one was pregnant," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham said there were 25,467 recoveries on Saturday, pushing the total to 3,844,766.

On clusters, he said three were identified on Saturday, namely two education clusters – the Dua Sungai Raba cluster in Selangor and Bandar Vendor cluster in Melaka – and a high-risk group cluster, Jalan SS Tiga in Selangor.

On hospitalisations, he said 979 people were admitted on Saturday, comprising 410 in categories 3, 4 and 5 and 569 in categories 1 and 2.

Up to Saturday, the ICU bed-use rate exceeded 50 per cent in two federal territories and three states.

It was 70 per cent in Kuala Lumpur, 67 per cent in Putrajaya, 59 per cent in Johor, 57 per cent in Penang and 53 per cent in Selangor.

On deaths, CovidNow data showed that 34 were recorded on Saturday, including eight brought-in-dead cases.

In Kota Baru, more than 26,000 children have received the first dose of a vaccine.

According to a state Health department's Facebook post, the figure, which was recorded up to Saturday, represented 9.7 per cent of the children in the state eligible for vaccination.

The post also stated that about one million adults in Kelantan have received the first vaccine dose up to Saturday and the number of adults who received the booster jab was still low at 313,158, or 24.9 per cent of eligible recipients.