

# President's Message



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I was recently given the honour of launching Vaxin Check For Adults, a community education programme spearheaded by the Malaysian Society of Infectious Diseases & Chemotherapy (MSIDC), in association with the Immunise4Life initiative involving Ministry of Health Malaysia and Malaysian Paediatric Association.

I believe the launch was a milestone event as it marked a momentous decision to start promoting adult vaccination in a concerted, comprehensive and sustainable manner to the Malaysian public.

While we can be proud of our high childhood vaccination rates, adult vaccination remains hampered by public apathy, misperceptions, ignorance and excuses. Evidently, many adults underestimate the suffering, financial hardship, and risk of disability or death that vaccine-preventable diseases can cause. There is also the possibility of spreading the diseases to their children, aged parents, or an immunocompromised family members.

As healthcare practitioners, it is incumbent upon us to actively advocate vaccination to our adult patients. In light of this, Vaxin Check For Adults comes as a welcome boon.

This programme is based upon MSIDC's Adult Immunisation Guidelines 2014. More significantly, the Society has taken the initiative to develop a simple guide to which vaccines are recommended for different adult profiles, namely, parents & childminders, people of advancing age, those with chronic diseases, and travellers (please see accompanying table).

These recommendations will be communicated and supported by a series of public education campaigns that MSIDC will be rolling out over the coming months for the target groups mentioned. Activities will include online videos, articles for print and online media, social media content, as well as the distribution of patient education leaflets and clinic posters.

The publicity is expected to spur strong public interest. This makes it necessary to ensure that interested individuals will be able to easily find doctors with whom they may discuss their adult vaccination needs. For this purpose, MSIDC also established an online clinic directory ([www.ifl.my/vaxincheck](http://www.ifl.my/vaxincheck)) with a geo locator functionality for users to identify listed clinics within a specified radius from their homes.

Clearly, we doctors need to be present and accessible if we wish to help 'close the loop' in terms of discussing with, persuading, and finally, vaccinating the public. As such, I would like to propose that all doctors who wish to offer adult vaccination to list their clinics in the directory.

For those interested, please contact the Vaxin Check For Adults secretariat at Tel: +603 7931 1868 / 7960 9788 (Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm) or email [matters@ifl.my](mailto:matters@ifl.my). Registration is free and listed clinics will be given access to a variety of useful online resources.

It is time adults got protected from vaccine-preventable diseases and they depend on us to show them how. So please be a part of Vaxin Check For Adults, Malaysia's 1st dedicated adult vaccination programme.





# Vaccine Recommendations For Different Adult Profiles

| Profiles   | Features  | Recommended Vaccines                              |
|--|---|---|
| <br><b>Lifestyle</b>                    | Sexually Active   | HPV, Hepatitis B                                  |
|  | Physically Active with Risk of Injury                   | Tetanus, Tdap                                     |
|  | Consume Raw or Semi-Cooked Foods                        | Hepatitis A                                       |
| <br><b>Travellers</b>                  | Travelling Abroad                                       | Influenza, Pneumococcal, Meningococcal            |
|  | Visiting Areas with Poor Sanitation & Water Hygiene     | Typhoid, Hepatitis A                              |
|  | Visiting Africa, South America, Asia and/or Middle East | Yellow Fever, Japanese Encephalitis               |
|  | Students Enrolled Abroad                                | Meningococcal, Tdap, MMR                          |
|  | Pilgrims  | Meningococcal, Pneumococcal, Influenza            |
| <br><b>Parents &amp; Childminders</b> | Planning For Baby                                       | MMR, Chickenpox                                   |
|  | Pregnant  | Tdap  |
|  | Caring, Living or Working with Babies & Children        | Influenza, Polio, Tdap                            |
| <br><b>Advancing Age</b>              | Above 50 Years Old                                      | Influenza, Pertussis, Pneumococcal, Shingles      |
|  | Caring for Elderly                                      | Influenza, Pertussis, Pneumococcal                |
| <br><b>Chronic Diseases</b>           | Chronic Lung Disease, Diabetes, Heart Disease           | Influenza, Pneumococcal                           |
|  | Chronic Liver Disease                                   | Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Influenza, Pneumococcal |

For more information, please contact the programme secretariat:

- Tel: +603-7931 1868 or +603-7960 9788 (Mondays to Fridays, 10am to 6pm)
- Email: [matters@ifl.my](mailto:matters@ifl.my)

Tdap = Tetanus, Diphtheria & Pertussis  
 MMR = Measles, Mumps & Rubella  
 HPV = Human Papillomavirus

A community health initiative by

In association with



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