

# Vaccines not wrong from the Islamic perspective

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Immunisation is permissible from the Islamic perspective, said Islamic affairs senior officer Al-Fadhil Ustaz Md Razali Saibin (pic) of Universiti



Malaysia Sabah's Islamic Centre.

The dependence on one's own immune system, as advocated by the anti-vaccine group, is not enough to make the body immune to diseases out there, he said.

"Therefore, we need the help of vaccine to improve the body's immunisation level.

"It is not wrong actually for us to protect ourselves from diseases by using the latest medicines, because in Islam, *tawakal* effort depends on our own efforts, as well.

"The reliance on one our own immune system may not be enough for us since nowadays there are many things that can damage our health. Thus, it could be bol-

stered by another to strengthen ourselves.

"So, my conclusion is, we can use these vaccines in addition to relying on or trusting nature," said Razali, in a talk on Vaccination: Disease Prevention Method according to the Islamic Perspective at UMS' medicine and health sciences faculty, on Saturday.

Immunisation is a preventative health strategy and parents should ensure their children are vaccinated according to schedule. Skipping or delaying vaccination will affect the health of their children as well as other children and babies.

Razali also said the anti-vaccine group should not assume that vaccines contained unclean or forbidden substances.

He said in the concept of Islam, the defence before one gets sick is we need to prevent it first.

"So, we have to have protection from the beginning, because in the perspective of Islam, this is even made compulsory, if we already know and proven by facts that children, who are not injected with vaccine, possibly will face illness when growing up."

The immunisation relates to measles,

pertussis and diphtheria had been discussed in the National Fatwa Council in 1989, and vaccines used for these diseases stem from pure substances, said Razali.

He said this to a question on how to convince Muslim consumers that immunisation/vaccine is safe and has been sanctioned by the religion.

"Actually, the Health Department has a link with the Islamic Development Department and the Fatwa Council, where in making any decisions about halal and haram (forbidden), they always get in touch with the two agencies.

"Thankfully 80 per cent of today's vaccines are halal," he assured.

State Health Department Deputy Director (Public Health) Dr Ismail Ali officiated at the closing ceremony of the event.

In his speech, Ismail hoped such programme on explaining fatwa could be continued in the future.

"This will allow the public to have access to clear information and understanding can be enhanced and further confusion on an issue can be avoided," he said.