

UMS actively helping to achieve herd immunity

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) is actively helping the state government achieve herd immunity by vaccinating 80 per cent of population by the end of this year.

Its Vice Chancellor, Professor Datuk Dr Taufiq Yap Yun Hin said UMS had optimized all its facilities, human resources and expertise to help the state government succeed in the National Covid-19 Immunization Program (PICK).

In line with the responsibility given to UMS as the Institution of Higher Learning Vaccination Center (PPV-IPT), more than 170 staff involving clinical workers and student volunteers, RELA and Malaysian Vaccine Support Volunteers (MyVAC) are helping out to ensure a smooth vaccination process, he said.

According to Taufiq, since the PPV-IPT UMS opened on June 14, UMS staff have given a total of 90,738 doses of vaccine, which includes 52,175 recipients for the first dose and 38,563 recipients for the second dose.

Taufiq said this when commenting on a report that Sabah had reached the target of 40 per cent vaccination rate involving the adult population on Tuesday.

He said that other than increasing the number of doses administered from 1,000 to 4,000 a day the vaccination centre at UMS is also accepting 'walk-in' by individuals who have not received their appointments via the MySejahtera app.

The walk-in sessions were done on Aug 3 to Aug 6, Aug 9 to Aug 13 and the latest one was from Aug 30 to Sept 3, Taufiq adding that UMS wanted



UMS working together with other agencies to carry out outreach programme to vaccinate rural residents.

to ensure that more people, especially those in the Kota Kinabalu area, are vaccinated.

"UMS has not only successfully conducted the vaccination program via its vaccination centre, the staff were also dispatched to outreach program to vaccinate folks in the rural areas.

Since July, UMS, working with the state Health Department, Covid-19 Immunization Task Force (CITF), Health Ministry and Kota Kinabalu City Hall conducted outreach program for rural folks who have problems making it to a vaccination centre, Taufiq said, adding that among the areas they went to were Kampung Kionsom, Kampung Pinahawon and Kampung Talungan.

There are plans to conduct

similar program in other identified areas, he said.

He added that realizing the high risk of exposure faced by residents in areas under the Enhanced Movement Control Order (EMCO) who have yet to be vaccinated, Hospital UMS staff have collaborated with several quarters to increase the vaccination process in these areas.

Among the areas covered were Taman Telipok Jaya, Universiti Apartment and Tanjung Aru, he said and disclosed that this exercise will also be conducted in a few more identified areas this month.

The exercise was done with the collaboration of the state Health Department, City Hall, National Population and Family Development Board Sabah and

the UPPM of the respective areas.

"We estimated that a total of 2,076 residents were vaccinated during the exercise," said Taufiq.

"UMS is doing this not only to help the state government achieve the vaccination rate target, but also it is also carrying out its social responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the people in Sabah.

"The Covid-19 pandemic poses many challenges not only to the economic sector but also to the education system, so we hope that the target to achieve herd immunity can be accelerated so that every social and economic activity can be opened and returned to normal," said Taufiq.