



PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE • 9 SEP 2021

A Strong Start by the Health Minister, and More is Needed

The Malaysian Health Coalition (MHC) welcomes the strong start by Minister Khairy Jamaluddin, and note the recent [evaluation criteria](#) that he set for the Ministry of Health (MOH). We hope to see the entire MOH machinery, as well as inter-agency collaborations, be mobilized to achieve these goals.

We urge the following:

1. Clarify the specific policy changes for an endemic COVID

The Minister [stated](#) that Malaysia “can expect to move into an endemic COVID-19 phase” by the end of October 2021. The MOH must clearly communicate this new strategy to the public by announcing the specific policy changes to its COVID-19 responses. Controlling virus [transmissibility](#), routine [vaccination programmes](#), [efficient testing](#), and [improving healthcare capacity](#), are among the areas that require clear policy shifts, so that we can treat COVID-19 as part of daily Malaysian life. We urge some caution in labelling COVID-19 as endemic, unless these parts of our health system are strengthened. Otherwise, we risk a complacent population or a public administration that stops focusing on COVID-19.

2. Involve expertise from outside MOH when making decisions.

We believe that it is the Minister’s right to build a team which he feels comfortable working with. Nevertheless, we recommend the Minister to get appropriate health advisors and implementation partners, especially from among health experts outside the MOH. Therefore, we urge that non-MOH health advisors and implementation partners be systematically embedded within the decision-making and implementation process, rather than be consulted on an *ad hoc* basis. A good working model is the Greater Klang Valley Task Force. The MHC and our member organisations are ready to assist.

3. Establish phased Key Performance Indexes (KPIs) for 30-60-90 Days

We commend the Minister’s 100 Day KPIs. However, as we are in the middle of a raging pandemic, some urgent measures must be taken earlier than the 100 days. Therefore, we suggest the Minister agrees on a phased set of KPIs to be achieved within 30, 60, and 90 days, together with MOH and non-MOH experts. This phased KPIs must be publicized for accountability, and also to unite all of Malaysia to achieve these KPIs together. These phased KPIs must be merged with the National Recovery Plan, Budget 2022 and *Rancangan Malaysia ke-12*, where Health must be at the forefront of all policy considerations.

We must now make up for some lost time due to the political instability of the last 18-months. Therefore, we stand behind the new Health Minister as he leads the MOH to turn the COVID-19 tide in Malaysia’s favour. We will fulfill our duties as responsible health professionals and citizens.

BERKHIDMAT UNTUK NEGARA.

Malaysian Health Coalition (Full Signature List on myhealthcoalition.org)

9 September 2021

Full signature list:**Organisations**

1. Association of Malaysian Optometrists
2. College of Anaesthesiologists
3. College of Surgeons Academy of Medicine of Malaysia
4. Dermatology Society of Malaysia
5. IKRAM Health Malaysia
6. Islamic Medical Association of Malaysia
7. Malaysian Association of Clinical Biochemists
8. Malaysian Association of Environmental Health
9. Malaysian Dental Public Health Association
10. Malaysian Medical Association
11. Malaysian Mental Health Association
12. Malaysian Nurses Association
13. Malaysian Paediatric Association
14. Malaysian Pharmacists Society
15. Malaysian Public Health Physician Association
16. Malaysian Society of Anaesthesiologists
17. Malaysian Society of Geriatric Medicine
18. Malaysian Society of Intensive Care
19. Malaysian Society of Occupational Safety and Health
20. Malaysian Society of Ophthalmology
21. Malaysian Thoracic Society
22. Medical Mythbusters Malaysia
23. Medical Practitioners Coalition Association of Malaysia
24. MedTweetMy
25. MMA Public Health Society
26. Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Malaysia
27. Perinatal Society of Malaysia
28. Pertubuhan Doktor-doktor Islam Malaysia

Individuals

29. Dato' Dr Amar Singh-HSS
30. Dr Ganabaskaran Nadason
31. Dr Khor Swee Kheng
32. Prof Datuk Lokman Hakim Sulaiman
33. Prof Datuk Dr Zulkifli Ismail
34. Prof Dr Asri Said
35. Prof Dr Marzida Mansor
36. Prof Dr Mohd Zamrin Dimon
37. Prof Dr Roslina Abdul Manap
38. Prof Dr Shaiful Bahari Ismail
39. Prof Dr Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh
40. Prof Dr Uma Devi Palanisamy
41. Prof Dr Zaleha Abdullah Mahdy