



INSTITUT JANTUNG NEGARA
National Heart Institute

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IJN LEADS THE FIGHT AGAINST INFLUENZA WITH ITS IN-HOUSE IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 2, 2021: While healthcare workers are rightfully focused on winning the battle against COVID-19, they should also not lose sight of another illness — influenza.

In fact, immunisation against influenza is now more important than ever to mitigate the effects of the pandemic and protect vulnerable patients.

This is the main message of Institut Jantung Negara's (IJN) "Influenza Week" launched today, which sees the centre carrying out a mass immunisation initiative for all its employees.

As part of the programme, all IJN staff will be able to receive influenza vaccines for free, from today till Feb 5.

Although influenza, or the flu, is often seen as a run-of-the-mill infection, it can sometimes worsen pre-existing conditions such as asthma, heart disease, and diabetes. It can potentially also lead to life-threatening complications like pneumonia, heart attacks, stroke and organ failure.

IJN chief executive officer Datuk Dr Aizai Azan Abdul Rahim explained that the immunisation programme was crucial in minimising these risks for vulnerable population. "Many people may think that everyone can easily recover from the flu, but some people are at a real risk of developing more severe flu complications – especially very young children, senior citizens, pregnant women, as well those with cardiovascular disease, lung disease, liver or kidney disease and diabetics", said Dr Aizai Azan.

"In light of the pandemic, our approach is to protect vulnerable staff and patients from at least one infectious disease, and we're willing to go the extra mile to do this."

Dr Aizai Azan, a practising clinician, added that more people should vaccinate themselves for the sake of the wider community.

"Viruses are capable of spreading even before we realise that we've been infected," he said.

"So even if you feel that you may not be too affected by the flu, you may risk passing on the infection to a vulnerable person like an elderly person or a young child.

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IJN. BEYOND
HEART



2009-2012



2009-2012



2010-2013



2010-2013



2010-2013



Since 2009



2010-2013



2008-2009



Winner of
Prime Minister
Innovation
Awards 2011

"Vaccines are still our best option at protecting ourselves, our loved ones, and our communities from infectious diseases."

The "Influenza Week" was also an opportunity to raise awareness on the importance of vaccines, said IJN deputy chief executive officer Datuk Akmal Arief Mohamad Fauzi.

"Aside from the health of our patients, the well-being of our staff is also our priority; we need to make sure that their own health is cared for too," added Akmal Arief, who is also the chairman of IJN's Occupational Safety and Health committee.

"At the same time, we hope this programme is a timely reminder that vaccines play a major role in preventing the spread of infectious diseases. We can all do our part by just getting a simple jab."

Meanwhile, Vida Vitamin C has stepped up as beverage sponsors for the programme by offering its specialised vitamin-fortified drinks throughout the week.

Vida C is dubbed as the first ready-to-drink vitamin c sparkling water that contains 1000mg dose of vitamin C which helps to boost immunity.

A product of Japan, Vida Vitamin C has earned the Healthier Choice Symbol in both Malaysia and Singapore.

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About Institut Jantung Negara Sdn. Bhd.

Institut Jantung Negara (IJN) was set up in 1992 and is dedicated to the management and treatment of heart diseases by providing cardiology, paediatric cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery services for adults and children.

Today, IJN is reckoned to be among the best medical centres for cardiovascular and thoracic care in Malaysia and the region. IJN has kept abreast with the latest medical advances, from handling a simple hole in the heart surgery to heart and lungs transplantations.

With a strong commitment to be a global heart care centre of excellence, IJN has paved the way by creating many "firsts" for cardiovascular and thoracic care in the country, namely:

- 1. 1st in SEA to introduce AXXESS Stent to treat bifurcation lesions*
- 2. 1st in Asia to introduce Renal Denervation – a radio frequency ablation procedure to treat patients with resistant hypertension*
- 3. 1st in the SEA to implant Bio resorbable Vascular Scaffold – a new stenting device*
- 4. 1st in the country to implant the Watchman device to reduce the risk of stroke in patient with AF*
- 5. Introduced HeartMate II – a new mechanical heart assist device as a bridge to transplantation in 2010*
- 6. 1st in Malaysia to perform Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI)*
- 7. 1st in Malaysia to perform minimally invasive lobectomy for lung disease*
- 8. 1st in the country to perform minimally invasive procedure to repair congenital chest deformity called "Pectus Excavatum" and "Pectus Carinatum"*
- 9. 1st in Malaysia to perform a double heart transplantation (redo) within 24 hours*
- 10. 1st to perform keyhole (endoscopic) surgery to treat lone atrial fibrillation in Asia and Australasia in 2006*
- 11. 1st to perform single and double lungs transplant*
- 12. 1st to perform the implantation of an Implantable Ventricular Assist Device (IVAD).*
- 13. 1st medical institute in the country and the Southeast Asean region to perform coronary bypass surgeries and complex thymectomy procedures on conscious or 'awake' patients without general anesthesia.*
- 14. 1st in Malaysia to perform bone marrow stem cell transplantation in patients suffering from severe ischemic heart disease with no other treatment options.*
- 15. 1st medical institute to conduct a homograft procurement to facilitate heart transplant.*

16. *1st medical institute in the country to perform a heart transplant.*
17. *One of the first in the region to perform detailed mapping for complex arrhythmia.*
18. *1st medical institute in the world to Implant a Bio-absorbable Pulmonary Valve Conduit*
19. *1st medical institute in Malaysia to carry out the complete replacement of the aorta.*
20. *1st in the world 2nd Generation smallest pacemaker*
21. *1st in Asia to perform Peripheral Arterial Disease procedure with Vasculflex Multi-LOC device*
22. *1st in Malaysia to implant dual chamber pacemaker system in a pregnant patient using non-fluoroscopic imaging*
23. *1st outside of United States to Implant Micra AV Pacemaker*
24. *The 1st in ASEAN region to implant MyVal a device with the latest technology to treat aortic stenosis*

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