



Leading by Example... IJN vs COVID-19

IJN is upholding its responsibility to do its part to curtail the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Prioritising the health and safety of our staff and our patients, we have been taking all the necessary precautions. We adhere strictly to the SOPs prescribed by the Ministry of Health (MOH) and Majlis Keselamatan Negara (MKN). As frontliners, we have also been up to speed with the national vaccination drive and have taken proactive steps towards vaccinating our staff. Our carefully planned and executed vaccination programme is illustrated below:

Preparation

Initiating the vaccination programme for IJN staff, the hospital had to purchase necessary equipment and train our personnel on the storage, management and monitoring of the vaccines and handling of MySejahtera & MyVAS and VMS (Vaccine Management System). A pharmacist led the task force with full support from the management and all departments. Personnel from Observation & Emergency(O&E), Nursing, Management Information Systems (MIS), Quality Management Department (QMD), Laboratory, Pharmacy, Occupational Safety & Health (OSH), and Human Capital and Organizational Development (HCOD) and Corporate Communication Department (CCD) formed a task force to plan and implement Phase 1 of PICK for frontliners

Ten IJN nurses were trained as vaccinators by MOH, while nine doctors, pharmacists and nurses received coaching on the management of Adverse Events Following Immunisation (AEFI). MIS created and implemented our own in-house backup system - IJN COVAC. In order to encourage uptake amongst staff, the task force carried out an awareness & education campaign. They organised webinars with experts, created informational posters, and answered staff questions and addressed their concerns via a Hotline. A suitable location was identified, and processes were put in place to ensure smooth operations of the PPV. A strong team of 35 IJN staff supported the *Pusat Pemberian Vaksin* (PPV) during this phase.

Staff Vaccination

Our clinical staff were vaccinated first, beginning from 1st March 2021, followed by the non-clinical staff, security personnel, cleaners and in-house vendors. As of June 2021, 96% of IJN staff have been fully vaccinated. The remaining staff will be vaccinated in the coming months based on their availability. IJN also helped MOH to vaccinate some educators and welfare staff in Phase 1. JKWP&P conducted their first audit of IJN PPV on the first day of operations and were happy and impressed with our set-up.

“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. If we can protect the people from even one infectious disease, we are willing to go the extra mile.”

In the words of our Chief Executive Officer Datuk Dr Aizai Azan Abdul Rahim, influenza, a virus-borne illness, can be debilitating and is not something that we should take lightly.

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.

In these days of the pandemic, it is vital that we try as much as possible to protect ourselves from infection and viruses to mitigate the effects of COVID-19.



At IJN, we have taken the responsibility to provide influenza vaccination for our staff. In protecting our staff, we protect our patients, especially as we treat vulnerable cardiothoracic patients.

Our responsibility begins with education, and earlier this year, IJN organised our “Influenza Week” to create awareness and as a vaccination drive. Various posters were put up during this awareness campaign, and we also had spin-the-wheel events and gifts to encourage staff participation in the vaccination programme. The vaccine was made available free of charge for all staff during the whole month of February.

IJN’s “Influenza Week” also allow us to highlight the importance of vaccines in preventing infectious diseases. It all boils down to understanding the matter at hand, trusting in medical science and braving the needle for the good of self and others. For this programme, we were able to vaccinate a total of 2,050 staff in 3 phases.

IJN as a Vaccination Centre (Pusat Pemberian Vaksin - PPV)

IJN is listed as one of the PPV centres for the National COVID-19 Immunisation Programme. We are happy and privileged to be able to be part of this national initiative and contribute towards Malaysia achieving herd immunity. Towards this end, we continue on our awareness drive and education programme about COVID-19 and the vaccine, for both our staff and our patients. The posters around the hospital and regular Public Service announcements serve as reminds to all who step into IJN.

Let us beat COVID-19 together.

