

# 'Being fully vaccinated helps prevent severe virus symptoms'

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Health Ministry's data on Covid-19 infectivity among healthcare workers has shown that being fully vaccinated can help individuals prevent severe Covid-19 symptoms.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba said the ministry had conducted surveillance on some 500 healthcare workers who were infected with the virus despite being fully vaccinated.

"From the surveillance, we found that only one of them fell beyond Stage 4 (which requires ventilator support), while the others remained in Stages 1 and 2 (mild symptoms).

"This demonstrates the efficacy of the vaccination in preventing severe (symptoms)," he said.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) had reported that an effective vaccine reduces mild, moderate and severe cases of Covid-19.

However, it said it was still possible for one to spread the infection to others after getting vaccinated.

As such, those vaccinated against the virus should continue wearing face masks, ensure hand hygiene and practise physical

distancing as a precaution.

Dr Adham also commented on the status of Malaysia's development of its own Covid-19 vaccine using the messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) technology.

He said the Institute for Medical Research started developing it with Universiti Putra Malaysia in November last year.

The vaccine, he said, was still in the development stage and was not ready for testing on small and large animals.

"The original SARS-CoV-2 virus and variants are now in the cloning stage.

"After this stage is completed, pre-clinical testing on small and large animals will be conducted.

"The pre-clinical trial on humans will be conducted a few months after that."

Dr Adham said the research was funded by the Health Ministry, the National Institute of Health and the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry.

On June 13, Dr Adham announced that the country was in the process of developing two types of Covid-19 vaccines — an mRNA vaccine and an inactivated vaccine.