



PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE • 1 AUG 2021

Science and Public Health Must be Apolitical

The Malaysian Health Coalition urges that any decision to postpone the Parliament of Malaysia must consider science and public health in apolitical terms. A functioning parliamentary democracy is an essential service, especially during a pandemic. There must be appropriate public scrutiny, law-making and debates to find the broadest range of ideas to fight COVID-19.

We recognize the stature and importance of the Parliament of Malaysia, and we believe it can be considered a workplace. We can draw lessons from other workplaces that deliver essential services (like offices, banks, and factories), and follow the spirit of the National Recovery Plan. Therefore, the Parliament of Malaysia can safely function if it follows the workplace SOPs recommended by the Ministry of Health, National Security Council, and Department of Occupational Safety & Health.

Additionally, the majority of Members of Parliament are already vaccinated, and all entry into Parliament require a prior negative COVID-19 test; these measures provide protection for attendees. Extra preventive steps can be implemented to enable Parliamentary sittings, such as virtual or hybrid meetings and to vaccinate all parliamentary staff as soon as possible.

We need trust to deliver effective healthcare for all Malaysians. Trust is built when decisions are consistent and when the Ministry of Health, its leaders, and all health professionals are ring-fenced from partisan politics. Science and public health must be apolitical, to preserve the Rakyat's trust.

BERKHIDMAT UNTUK NEGARA.

Malaysian Health Coalition

Full Signature List on myhealthcoalition.org.

1 August 2021

Full Signatories List

Organisations

1. Academy of Medicine of Malaysia
2. Association of Malaysian Optometrists
3. Asthma Malaysia
4. College of Ophthalmologists
5. College of Physicians
6. College of Surgeons Academy of Medicine of Malaysia
7. Dermatology Society of Malaysia
8. Islamic Medical Association of Malaysia
9. Lung Cancer Network of Malaysia
10. Malaysian Association for Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology
11. Malaysian Association of Medical Assistants
12. Malaysian Dental Public Health Association
13. Malaysian Nurses Association
14. Malaysian Paediatric Association
15. Malaysian Pharmacists Society
16. Malaysian Public Health Physicians' Association
17. Malaysian Society of Clinical Psychology
18. Malaysian Society of Geriatric Medicine
19. Malaysian Society of Occupational Safety and Health
20. Malaysian Thoracic Society
21. Medical Practitioners Coalition Association of Malaysia MPCAM
22. MedTweetMy
23. MMA Public Health Society
24. Perinatal Society of Malaysia
25. Public Health Malaysia
26. #OpsHarapan

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