

4,500 KELANTAN KIDS MISS VAX DATES

Children did not turn up for appointments, which were set by their parents, says state health director

SHARIFAH MAHSINAH ABDULLAH
KOTA BARU
news@nst.com.my

MORE than 4,500 children skipped their appointments for Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids) in Kelantan.

Kelantan health director Datuk Dr Zaini Hussin said the children, aged between 5 and 11, did not attend the appointments set by their parents, mostly via MySejahtera.

He said the figure was recorded between March 1 to 8 at the Covid-19 vaccination centre (PPV) in Taman Orkid in Pengkalan Chepa.

He said, during the eight-day period, the PPV received about 4,800 appointments per day.



A father giving his daughter a high five as she gets her Covid-19 vaccine dose at a vaccination centre in Putrajaya on Wednesday. PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

However, only between 20 and 50 children were vaccinated daily on average.

“The off-site PPV had received

about 600 appointments a day from parents for vaccination of their children (aged 5 to 11).

“But in the eight days, an av-

erage of 240 children or five per cent of the total 4,800 came for the vaccination.

“The rest, or more than 4,500

children, had skipped their appointments,” he said.

Dr Zaini urged parents in the state not to cancel the appointments for their children’s vaccination as it provided them protection against serious symptoms.

Deputy Health Minister Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali had on Sunday said that two states, namely Kelantan and Terengganu, had a take-up rate of under 15 per cent for PICKids.

Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin on Monday told parents that the “wait and see” period is over and that they should not hesitate to get their children vaccinated.

He said a total of 1.63 million PICKids appointments were sent out since Feb 3, but only a million had been vaccinated, which meant that 600,000 did not come for their appointments.

It is understood that a total of 22,816 children in Kelantan have been vaccinated up to March 8.

They were among 114,000 children eligible for the vaccine dose under PICKids.

Parents or guardians nationwide can use the MySejahtera app to register their children for PICKids effective March 7.