



WAKTU BERBUKA PUASA



Imsak
05:47 AM



Maghrib
19:21 PM

Rumah Bersih & Teratur, Ibadah Saat Ramadan

Selamat Menyambut Ramadan Al-Mubarak



VACUUM AND WIPE IN ONE GO
Philips 8000 Series Aqua Cordless Vacuum

TRENDING

[Spike in Covid-19 cases sees police place further restrictions on interstate travel](#)

[Covid-19: Education Department orders 19 schools in Petaling district closed](#)

[Malaysia's oldest woman shares experience of helping deliver over 700 babies](#)

Benefits of vaccine must outweigh risks significantly

By [Dzulkifli Abdul Razak](#) - January 5, 2021 @ 12:12am

The rule of thumb in the overall use of medicines is that the benefits must outweigh the risks in a significant way. - NSTP file pic, for illustration purposes only

THE recent survey report that focuses on the concerns about side effects of the vaccine among Malaysians who are not sure (17 per cent) or rejected it (16 per cent), is an eye-opener.

Over 83 per cent expressed "fear of possible side effects". Conducted online between Dec 21 and 28 by the Health Ministry, "only 67 per cent of the total 212,006 sampled said they would accept the Covid-19 vaccine".

MOST POPULAR

LATEST

MOST READ

12m

['Madrid will not be kicked out of Champions League': ESL chief Perez](#)

16m

[Merkel party backs Laschet as chancellor candidate](#)

25m

[Ramadan Special: Flavours of tradition and home](#)

25m

[FT Ministry to implement large-scale precision farming project to help the homeless](#)

33m

[World running out of time to tackle climate crisis: UN](#)

1h

[All shot by Thursday](#)

1h

[Red Giants get a pat on the back from Neitzel](#)

<https://www.nst.com.my/opinion/columnists/2021/01/654542/benefits-vaccine-must-outweigh-risks-significantly>

1/4



WAKTU BERBUKA PUASA



Imsak
05:47 AM

Maghrib
19:21 PM

Rumah Bersih & Teratur, Ibadah Saat Ramadan
Selamat Menyambut Ramadan Al-Mubarak

PHILIPS



VACUUM AND WIPE IN ONE GO
Philips 8000 Series Aqua Cordless Vacuum

- [Money can't buy me 'sejahtera'](#)
- [Experts: Govt must regulate vaccine distributorship process](#)
- ['Ex-Covid-19 patients must still get vaccinated'](#)
- [We must reflect on S. African move not to use AstraZeneca vaccine](#)

Yet it is claimed to be more than 90 per cent "good" for consumption with minimum implied side effects. Ironically, it is released on an "emergency " basis, not like the regular food items.

The why is not clear, nor if this is stated on the package labelling to heighten the awareness of the consumer in making decisions in case of an "emergency".

Otherwise, why the rush to get one and risk some possible unindicated effects yet to be documented, especially those associated with long-term use?

The buyer must be assured that the benefits outweigh the risks based on the evidence listed that the item claims to offer.

That said, the item is not just safe for use but also efficacious, and devoid of any untoward effect involving most of the targeted population at any period when the item is tested – namely, five to 10 years in regular cases thus far.

Which explains why over 83 per cent expressed "fear ". Data in other parts of the world seem to corroborate and begs the question why the information of longer-term side effects is still wanting.

More so why it is often glossed over in the eagerness to use it the world over. Now, imagine again that the item you are contemplating to buy is a medicinal item, like an over-the-counter (OTC) medicine for fever, or a prescribed item for infection like antibiotics, or an established vaccine that is well known against smallpox.

Finally, a novel vaccine (NV) that is less than a year in existence for a virus that is not well understood at all with several variants now being detected



[Tumpat villagers sign up for vaccine in house-to-house campaign](#)



NATION Apr 16, 2021 @ 9:10am
[Mixing vaccines: Experts urge caution](#)



WORLD Apr 16, 2021 @ 8:16am
[Pfizer CEO: Vaccine third dose 'likely' needed within 12 months](#)



WORLD Apr 15, 2021 @ 10:14am
[EU to get 50 million Pfizer doses early as US prolongs J&J pause](#)



LEADER Apr 15, 2021 @ 12:00am
[NST Leader: Rich and infamous](#)

ACROSS NEW STRAITS TIMES



NATION Apr 19, 2021 @ 4:20pm
[Two Malaysian students score top 10 spot in global ACCA exam](#)



COLUMNISTS Apr 18, 2021 @ 12:01am
[Emotional 15-hour journey home](#)



WAKTU BERBUKA PUASA



Imsak
05:47 AM

Maghrib
19:21 PM

*Rumah Bersih & Teratur, Ibadah Saat Ramadan
Selamat Menyambut Ramadan Al-Mubarak*



VACUUM AND WIPE IN ONE GO
Philips 8000 Series Aqua Cordless Vacuum

taxpayers, it is more compelling that evidences provided by the responsible body are well verified, and complied to the fullest with regard to safety and efficacy according to the regulations and the laws.

Any deviation from this can only mean unverifiable risk or adverse reaction. The World Health Organisation (WHO) is clear that the said vaccines are not a cure nor should it be made mandatory.

This is reiterated by many countries, including Belgium, recently. The fact remains that the so-called "emergency" use is premature and has no firm legal basis for a wholesale global use. Indeed, for those who have special

needs, the availability of full information approved by an independent body will be of help in deciding who among those are in real need based on the specific "emergency ".

Without that, it is arguable to assume that the item is "unsafe" for consumption. The reason is plain enough.

Once an untoward effect appears, it is not easy to resolve because it could be acute and life-threatening in the worst-case scenario.

Others may take a longer time to manifest. Worse when it involves the elderly and the very young. Not only is their body support system more fragile, their memories too are more vulnerable.

Resorting to opaque arguments in insisting to be vaccinated at all cost is untenable unless the situation could be urgently remedied by sharing the full information in showing that the benefits significantly outweigh the risks.

The writer, an NST columnist for more than 20 years, is International Islamic University Malaysia rector

RELATED ARTICLES

- COLUMNISTS** Dec 8, 2020 @ 12:20am

Understanding Covid-19 vaccine vital to dispel untruths
- NATION** Feb 24, 2021 @ 9:10am

Is vaccine safe for pregnant women, people with HIV?

LEADER

LETTERS

COLUMNISTS



WAKTU BERBUKA PUASA



Imsak

05:47 AM



Maghrib

19:21 PM



Rumah Bersih & Teratur, Ibadah Saat Ramadan

Selamat Menyambut Ramadan Al-Mubarak





VACUUM AND WIPE IN ONE GO

Philips 8000 Series Aqua Cordless Vacuum

00:30

#Showbiz: Police probing Chef Wan's son-in-law for alleged discipline breach |...

New Straits Times

Motion For Life

Sponsored | Michelin Malaysia

Sell your car in 24 hours, instant...

Book Now

Stay at home and we'll do the rest. With Free home...

Sponsored | Carsome Malaysia

How to Reduce Your Electric Bill by Up to 90%

Sponsored | Electricity Saver

Police confirm slapping RM10,000 fine on individual for not scanning...

New Straits Times

William and Harry won't be shoulder-to-shoulder at Prince Philip funeral | New...

New Straits Times

GET MOBILE APP



Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

EXPLORE IT ON AppGallery



Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

NEWS	BUSINESS	LIFE & TIMES	SPORTS	WORLD	OPINION	GALLERY	NSTTV
Crime & Courts	Business Times	Sunday Vibes	Football	World	Columnists	Photos	EDUCATION
Exclusive	Property	Bots	Badminton	Region	Letters	Infographics	VOUCHER
Govt / Public Policy	Cars Bikes Trucks	Heal	Tennis		Leader		
Nation		Flair	Cycling				
Politics		Jom!	Golf				
		Groove	MMA				
			MotorSport				
			Cricket				
			Others				

2021 © New Straits Times, New Straits Times Press (M) Bhd. A part of Media Prima Group.

SubscribeDisclaimerPersonal Data Protection ActContact Us

https://www.nst.com.my/opinion/columnists/2021/01/654542/benefits-vaccine-must-outweigh-risks-significantly

4/4