

Argument for getting booster doses needs a boost

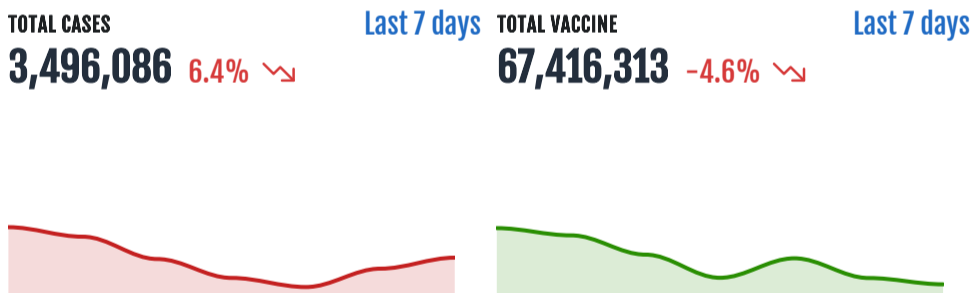


By [Dzulkifli Abdul Razak](#) - February 14, 2022 @ 12:00am



A medical officer administers a Covid-19 booster shot at Dewan Ang Si Chong vaccination centre in Butterworth, Penang on February 13. -NSTP/DANIAL SAAD

COVID VACCINATION



The booster dose issue is confusing enough even without the debate between a government-linked company (GLC) and the Health Ministry about the (in)effectiveness of an alleged Covid-19 vaccine combination.

The GLC is said to have made misrepresentations about the situation publicly.

Unfortunately, this was not settled behind closed doors before it was revealed to the public, who are baffled by the rising Omicron variant cases.

Invariably, the level of trust in booster shots continues to suffer, especially for non-European brands that did not see the light of day in the West, notably the United States.

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the debates are pointing to today. And how about the definition of a "fully vaccinated" person?

The thinly veiled "threat" to withdraw the fully vaccinated status of millions who received Sinovac, and the *warga emas* who are yet to get their booster shots (which one?), seems hasty.

This will likely cause a greater trust deficit and hesitancy among people, creating more uncertainty.

It is time for a clearer and more robust evidence to boost the argument for an "additional" dose, or even doses.

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

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