

1 June 2021

PRESS STATEMENT – VACCINATION CENTRES IN SHOPPING MALLS

Further to the recent press statement by the Minister of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs on 28 May 2021 to vaccinate 500,000 employees in the retail industry, we laud the government's announcement of targeting relevant economic sectors to accelerate the vaccination programme. Shopping malls together with all retail tenants' staff are effectively frontliners and we feel that it is imperative for the vaccination exercise to be implemented expeditiously. When vaccinated, our frontliners will not only protect themselves but more importantly, duly protect the shoppers and the public.

We are also appreciative that our proposal for on-site vaccination centres at shopping malls is adopted as it is more efficient and logical to bring the medical personnel to come on-site to administer the vaccinations instead of all the staff having to take time off work to travel to outside vaccination centres, thus interrupting business and daily operations.

The initiative has garnered enthusiastic response from our members malls and retailers alike. We have received more than 50 malls interested to host PPVs nationwide and it is definitely an invaluable contribution towards our industry's ongoing nationwide combat against the pandemic, in collaboration with the authorities. Details of this programme and the confirmed locations are being finalized and will be announced, once approved in due course, and we do look forward to the roll-out by end of June 2021 onwards as scheduled.

We already had several meetings with the authorities on this public-private sector partnership with the vaccines being provided by our government free-of-charge, but the malls are paying for the doctors/nurses/medical officer fees to Protect Health Corporation and all other antecedent costs. Our Association members estimated that the cost of providing the venue, logistics, manpower, standby ambulance service etc for the on-site vaccination centre will amount to RM100 to RM150 per pax, depending on volume and total number of doses available each day, the total population to be vaccinated and the duration to complete all the doses.

In the interests of the national agenda, it was decided that the malls shall largely subsidise these costs and be allowed to charge merely RM10 x 2 doses = RM20 per pax to partially defray their expenses and as a commitment by the registrant so as to mitigate absenteeism, leading to wastage of vaccines which would otherwise could be administered to those yet to be scheduled and in order to reach herd immunity of the community in the shortest possible time.

We were also informed that the doctors and nurses providing their service will be allocated by the Protect Health Corporation who will charge to administer per dose at RM15. Therefore, at RM15 per dose x 2 doses equalling RM30, plus the above nominal sum of RM20 to partially defray logistic expenses, a total of **RM50 for 2 doses** will be charged to participants, principally only our shopping frontliners.

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We are indeed much appreciative of our malls for recognizing the need to subsidise the costs to help out in this national objective towards our core objective of immunizing all retail frontliners to protect the shopping and retail industry as our overall CSR contribution towards the national agenda of achieving herd immunity urgently.

It has been proven in several overseas countries that the speed of vaccinations is the way to bring down the rate of infections, coupled with self-discipline and strict adherence to SOPs instead of prolonging the need for further MCOs. With vaccination for the public being planned on a different schedule, the primary purpose for this partnership is to vaccinate all employees of shopping malls as well as their business outlets, and we do believe that once this is done, our malls are indeed much safer places for the public to shop with confidence and with peace of mind.

Despite our good intentions, we are distraught with the negative comments in the media that malls are profiteering from this exercise which is extremely far from the truth. We issue this press release in order to put the record straight and correct. The fact that the enthusiastic participation of the malls together with the overwhelming registration by the staff and their tenants are testimonies of the urgent need for access to vaccination.

We truly look forward to the success of this win-win collaboration with the authorities towards the national objective of achieving herd immunity urgently and the ultimate recovery of the economy in due course.

Thank you.