

Get jabbed, stay protected

THE protective effect (or neutralising antibody levels) of all vaccines tends to drop with time.

That is why the government is encouraging booster shots for those who have already had their Covid-19 vaccination.

International Medical University (IMU) infectious disease consultant and head, division of medicine, school of medicine, Professor Dr James Koh says this should not come as a surprise as most vaccines have boosters. It is not unique to the Covid-19 vaccine.

It's important to get the booster shot, which essentially "reawakens" our immune system to start producing antibodies.

"This booster shot is not the endgame. There will be a next and a next — we don't know how many but we definitely know this will not be the last," says Dr Koh.

The safety of mixing vaccines has also brought about hesitancy but Dr Koh stresses that everyone should take their boosters no matter the mix as it is more dangerous to not take a booster.

"It is better to get any booster than to have none at all."

The pandemic landscape continues to change with new variants such as the Omicron emerging. However, so far, data shows that symptoms are mild among adults while children are experiencing heavier



Most vaccines have boosters.

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symptoms. This could be because some children are not vaccinated yet, explains Dr Koh.

The silver lining is that the death rate hasn't gone up yet although it will only be closer to the end of the year before there is enough data to make any conclusions.

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