

Local

# Kuwait vaccination drive should be completed within a year: Spokesman

## No evidence yet vaccinated people won't infect others, says Dr Sanad

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** It's been nearly a month since the coronavirus vaccination campaign kicked off in Kuwait, and the latest announced number of people who have been vaccinated is 20,000. People are wondering how long the vaccination process will take, considering it could last for years, which means that life won't get back to normal soon.

According to Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad, Spokesman of the Ministry of Health, the vaccination drive should be completed within a year. "Kuwait's population is 4,464,521, and after excluding those under 15 years old, pregnant women, those with severe allergies and those who are not interested in getting vaccinated, the number of people who could be vaccinated is 2,775,000," he told Kuwait Times.

There is intense competition from all countries to import the vaccine. "Kuwait signed a contract to receive a certain number of vaccines, but haven't received it all yet. We are receiving them on a weekly basis. Soon, the Oxford-AstraZeneca vac-

cine will be approved worldwide, so we will receive many more vaccines. We hope to finish the vaccination process within one year," added Sanad.

In order to complete the vaccination of 2,775,000 people within a year, over 231,000 peo-



**Vaccinated people should still follow precautions**

ple should be vaccinated every month, which is far from the number reached in the first month. Kuwait Times hasn't received the number of people inoculated daily or the number of vaccines that have been

received. Dr Sanad noted the numbers will be announced soon, adding the situation will change after receiving other vaccine doses.

The Ministry of Health had announced on Thursday the rescheduling of future coronavirus vaccination appointments, as shipments from Pfizer-BioNTech will be delayed for Kuwait and the entire world because of a halt in factory production. The company will not export the amount of vaccines agreed upon to many countries for a period of time, so the ministry will reschedule future dates (those who haven't received text messages yet) to ensure a continuous vaccination campaign, the ministry said.

The statement also highlighted that all those who previously booked appointments have received text messages for the first shot of the coronavirus vaccination and the second shot too. All those who have already been vaccinated and are waiting for their second shot will also receive their inoculation on time according to their appointment without any change. The rescheduling



is for future appointments only. Dr Sanad also noted that those who were vaccinated may be protected from getting infected, but there is no evidence yet that these vaccinated people will not infect others with the virus if they are not showing symptoms. "So those who have been vaccinated should still follow health precautions until we reach herd immunity," he cautioned.

## National Guard's Deputy Chief visits personnel at Info Ministry



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait National Guard's Deputy Chief Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah visited the critical infrastructure protection unit responsible for protecting the Ministry of Information's building yesterday. Sheikh Ahmad praised the personnel's role in providing protection to the critical site, urging them to stay vigilant at all times. Sheikh Ahmad also conveyed greetings of Kuwait National Guard's Chief His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah to the officers, Kuwait National Guard said in a press statement.



## Kuwait lists 1,067 new COVID-19 cases in two days

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait listed 534 new coronavirus infections and no virus-related deaths yesterday, compared to 533 new cases and one death on Friday, taking the total cases up to 160,901 and deaths to 952, the health ministry said. Meanwhile, total recoveries reached 153,746 after the ministry reported 439 and 481 recoveries yesterday and Friday, respectively. The number of people hospitalized with the virus stood yesterday at 6,203, with 50 of them in intensive care units, up from 48 on Friday, according to ministry spokesman Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad. He added that 8,978 swab tests were conducted over the last day out of a total number of swab tests conducted in Kuwait reached 1,455,481 after the ministry announced that health workers carried out 8,978 and 10,311 tests over the previous two days respectively. Dr Sanad renewed his call for the public to abide by social distancing rules and other preventive measures. He advised people to follow up the official websites and accounts of the ministry to get updated about necessary measures to stop the spread of the virus. —KUNA

تطورات مرض فيروس كورونا COVID-19

كلها في مكان واحد

534 NEW CASES الإجمالي: 160,901	0 NEW DEATHS الإجمالي: 952	439 NEW RECOVERIES الإجمالي: 153,746
50 TOTAL SERIOUS CASES	6,203 TOTAL ACTIVE CASES	8,978 NEW TESTS الإجمالي: 1,455,481

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