

QC hikes vaccination drive against measles

By Rio N. Araja

IN RESPONSE to the measles outbreak declared by the Department of Health, the Quezon City Health Department is conducting anti-measles vaccination drives in several barangays and health centers across the city.

After receiving reports of the increasing cases of measles in early January, the QCHD immediately responded with vaccination drives and information campaigns.

According to QCHD chief Dr. Verdades Linga, the vaccination drives are part of the city's outbreak response immunization (ORI) plan to ensure that children ages six months to five years old received free measles immunization.

"We give them additional vaccines for measles to avoid the transmission of the virus," Dr. Linga said.

As of Feb. 12, the QCHD has already vaccinated 14,151 children throughout the city.

Aside from immunization, the children also received vitamin A and deworming tablets.

"It helps take our worries away for measles, and we are happy we have these free vaccinations," said Narsita Agdon, a grandmother of two children who received immunization shots.

The QCHD is urging all parents of children six months to five years old to have them vaccinated as soon as possible at the nearest health centers.

Vaccines are still the best way to prevent the spread of any disease, especially now that an outbreak is confirmed, Dr. Linga stressed.

Meanwhile, to spread awareness on the importance of privacy and data protection in Quezon City, Mayor Herbert M. Bautista recently ordered the creation of a technical working group for data privacy.

The TWG is tasked to inform and cultivate awareness on privacy and data protection, perform initial impact and risk assessment and assist the data privacy act core group in developing the city's Privacy Management Program and its manual.

Bautista's Executive Order 1 series of 2019 says the TWG is mandated to ensure the city's compliance with Republic Act 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012.

"The implementation of the said act, including its implementing rules and regulations (IRR), will be initiated and facilitated by the Quezon City Government for compliance to the provisions of the said law which broadly encourage transparency, accountability, and good governance," the executive order reads.