

LGU set aside funds for vaccines

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The Mandaluyong City government has allocated P200 million for the purchase of vaccines for the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19).

“We will try to get all Mandaleños vaccinated once the vaccine is available, so we ask for everyone’s cooperation,” Mayor Menchie Abalos said.

Because of this, the mayor has directed all 27 barangay chairmen of the city to speed up the processing of F1 forms (Family Form 1) to complete the data bank of all Mandaleños.

“I also appeal to all residents of the city to fill out the F1 forms, so we know how many vaccines we will get,” she said.

Meanwhile, Taguig City rolled out a P13.5 billion “recovery budget” this year, which includes P1 billion for vaccination. It also reminded citizens that vaccination is just one component of its fight against Covid-19.

Included in the recovery budget is P1 billion for a vaccine roll out plan, where every citizen will have access to free Covid-19 vaccine

“As early as September, we have already started planning for vaccination. It will complement our other ongoing anti-Covid programs, like our aggressive mass testing and treatment,” Mayor Lino Cayetano said.

He added the city wants to make sure that “testing continues throughout 2021; that our free testing in 30 health centers and two drive-through sites continue and we continue to invest in health care and treatment.”

On the other hand, the **Quezon City government** announced it is finalizing its talks with a reputable multinational pharmaceutical company for the acquisition of an initial 750,000 doses of Covid-19 vaccines.

City officials said they are ready to purchase the vaccine to complete its efforts against the deadly virus.

The city will prioritize 10,000 health workers, 300,000 senior citizens, 20,000 adult persons with disabilities, and other priority sectors as recommended by the World Health Organization.

Abalos has formed a committee to oversee vaccination and ensure adequate vaccination for all residents of the city.

The mayor said she is hoping the data bank of the city’s residents will be completed immediately, because it is expected there will be a vaccine in March or April this year.

She said the city government has a mobile app that serves as a registration portal for all residents who volunteer to get vaccinated. It is expected to be launched next week.

In Taguig, the city’s molecular laboratory and disease surveillance units will continue operations and will be funded in 2021, since disease surveillance is one of the most important aspects of preventing the spread of Covid and other infectious diseases, even while the vaccine is being rolled out.

“We are working closely with the Joint Task Force and the Department of Health for the allotment of vaccines for Taguig, but we are also already talking to suppliers for our own

procurement once we are given the green light. We are also set to launch our model vaccine stations and our citizen's ID this January. Both are important components of the vaccine rollout plan," Cayetano said.

Taguig has the lowest active cases in Metro Manila to end 2020, and is confident it will lead in the transition to the new normal.

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