

QC vaccination plan gets green light

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THE Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases has approved Quezon City's vaccination plan, the city's mayor said on Saturday.



“From the start of the pandemic, the city government has maximized its resources to make sure the residents would not be left behind in terms of assistance and support as we all battle the virus and now that vaccine would be made available, we will ensure that this will be given to them properly and safely,” Mayor Josefina Belmonte said in a statement. The city government earlier said Quezon City would be getting an initial 1.1 million doses of vaccine good for 550,000 people following the signing of an agreement with AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals Philippines.

Belmonte said they were given an assurance by Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles that the national government will provide vaccines for the rest of the city's residents or about 2.1 million people.

“We commit to inoculate the around 2.1 million that the national government needs to inoculate,” Belmonte quoted Nograles as saying.

Belmonte had also issued an executive order creating Task Force Vax to Normal to oversee the acquisition and distribution of the vaccine in Quezon City.

Joseph Juico, head of the task force, said the city has around 1.05 million residents in the priority listing, which includes public and private healthcare workers, barangay frontliners, senior citizens, persons with disability, uniformed personnel and indigent families. Quezon City Mayor Josefina ‘Joy’ Belmonte.

“We recently launched the online registration for QC ID to put together the priority list for the distribution of the Covid-19 vaccines. An on-the-ground registration will also be held for those who do not have access to the internet,” he said.

The city government has also launched QC Protektodo sa Bakunang Sigurado, a communications campaign aimed to promote awareness and allay public fear on immunization against coronavirus.

The local official said the city will be tapping the Zuellig Pharmaceutical Co. as its logistics partner to ensure the proper inventory, storage and management of the vaccines once

these enter the country.

The city government has identified a total of 24 schools as vaccination sites. Each school will be manned by a team composed of at least 22 medical and nonmedical personnel. More sites will be added as it finalizes talks with the Diocese of Cubao and the Diocese of Novaliches that have offered their parishes as inoculation sites.

Talks are also underway with the city's universities and colleges. The augmentation of manpower resources for any additional sites is also being discussed through initiatives with the private sector.