

## QC secures 24 more vaccination sites

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The Quezon City government has secured 24 public schools in the city that will serve as vaccination sites ahead of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout.

Mayor Joy Belmonte said the vaccination facilities were inspected to ensure the safety and efficiency of the city's inoculation program.

The city government targets to inoculate over a million residents initially, based on the priority listing of the Department of Health.

"Schools have enough space to ensure the free movement of medical personnel and to implement social distancing measures. Schools are also the nearest venues from health centers, where the vaccines coming from Zuellig to our cold storage facility will be stored," Belmonte said.

She said each facility would have a waiting area, registration area as well as rooms for vaccination, counseling, screening and observation.

The vaccination facilities have been arranged in a way that workflow would be "unidirectional" to prevent close contacts, according to Belmonte.

Inspectors made sure that the facilities are well-ventilated so as not to contaminate the vaccines, city health department chief Esperanza Anita Escaño-Arias said.

"To avoid wastage of the vaccines, the vaccination should take place in a covered facility. Vaccines are very sensitive, especially when exposed to sunlight," Arias said.

Aside from schools, Belmonte said they are finalizing talks with the Dioceses of Cubao and Novaliches, which both offered their parishes as inoculation sites.

Quezon City has signed a tripartite agreement with the national government and British drug manufacturer AstraZeneca for the procurement of 1.1 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine.