

300 QC hospital frontliners get jabs

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A total of 300 health workers at **Quezon City General Hospital (QCGH)** received the initial 300 doses of the CoronaVac vaccine as the **Quezon City local government** yesterday began its vaccination program.

Only health care workers aged 18 to 59 and who are in good health are scheduled to be inoculated by their fellow QCGH doctors.

The vaccination focuses on health workers whose lives have been constantly at risk since the pandemic began last year.

In Valenzuela City, 40 medical frontliners of Valenzuela Medical Center (VMC) were inoculated yesterday with the CoronaVac vaccine of Sinovac.

Valenzuela city received 300 doses of the serum from the national government on Tuesday night.

Dr. Maria Estrella Litam, VMC director, said 750 medical frontliners, including residents and consultants, volunteered to avail of the vaccine.

An initial 300 of VMC personnel who signed up will be receiving the shots, while the remaining 450 will follow when the next batch of vaccines arrive.

Litam was the first to be inoculated among the hospital staff, undergoing the mandated six-step protocol, followed by VMC surgeon Dr. Manuel Pocsidio.

Dr. Josephine Sabando, QCGH director, said most of the hospital's health care workers were willing to be vaccinated.

However, when the vaccine to be used was made known, some hesitated.

But after attending town hall meetings where facts and studies were presented, many doctors, nurses and other medical staff changed their minds and registered for the vaccination.

"Since we are continuously addressing Covid-19 cases, the mayor really convinced us to get vaccinated because this would protect us from infection by the virus. Also, seeing other doctors and nurses get vaccinated really helped a lot in convincing our own team to register,"

Sabando said.

"With this vaccine, we are preventing moderate to severe cases among our health care workers. Once vaccinated, there will be almost complete protection from hospitalization, intubation, even death," she added.

The second dose of CoronaVac vaccines is expected to be administered after four weeks.

Meanwhile, Valenzuela Mayor Rex Gatchalian earlier said the vaccination is not mandatory.

However, all Valenzuelanos 18 years old and older are being encouraged by the local government to get vaccinated and protect themselves from the disease.