

QC not adopting use of ivermectin

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THE **Quezon City government** said on Sunday that it is not adopting the use of the antiparasitic drug ivermectin in the treatment of Covid-19.

“We will follow whatever is the stand of the Department of Health (DoH) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on the issue since this is very well under their jurisdiction, given their mandate to review consumer products. And if they don’t authorize the use of this drug for Covid-19, we will rely on their expertise,” **QC Health Department** chief Dr. Esperanza Arias said.

Arias said the city government was one with the public in seeking fast measures to address the disease but stressed this should not come at the expense of regulatory processes that test products and medicines for their safety and efficacy.

“There are also other factors we need to consider if we will use this, such as the correct dosage to get maximum benefit. Public health should never be compromised at any given time.”

The FDA recently granted a compassionate special permit (CSP) to an unnamed hospital to use ivermectin on Covid-19 patients. The DoH clarified that a CSP is not a certificate of registration for the drug, and that only the hospital or the doctor holding a CSP are allowed to dispense the medicine.