

Lawmaker to DoH: Allow drive-thru vaccinations

The Manila Times · 1 May 2021 · A5 · CURRIE CATOR

QUEZON City 2nd District Rep. Precious Hipolito-Castelo is urging the Department of Health (DoH) to allow local government units to undertake drive-thru Covid-19 vaccination.

Hipolito-Castelo said the expected arrival of more vaccine shipments in the coming months should be accompanied by a “surge in vaccine rollout” to “immunize and protect as many Filipinos as possible — and as fast as likely.”

“Having drive-thru vaccination sites will encourage those who are hesitant to go to existing congested inoculation centers due to fear of contracting the virus from other vaccinees or vaccinators,” she said.

Hipolito-Castelo pointed out in the United States, more than 230 million of its 331-million population have been vaccinated through drivethru inoculation facilities. She said the Philippines can do the same in public parks and open areas like Rizal Park in Manila and the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City, among others.

As for those outside the country’s capital, the lawmaker said “vaccine hubs” can be set up at the Subic Free Port in Subic, Zambales, Clark Special Economic Zone in Angeles City, or Camp John Hay in Baguio City, for instance.

Hipolito-Castelo likewise suggested the DoH is seeking help from volunteer doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers for the expanded inoculation.

“Introducing other solutions like drive-through hubs — and home and village vaccination — is the only way we can ramp up vaccine rollout,” she underscored.

Earlier, Hipolito-Castelo proposed the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases to allow private villages and subdivisions conduct their own vaccination drives.