

QC administers 1 M COVID vaccine doses

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The **Quezon City government** has administered more than one million COVID-19 vaccines since the start of the inoculation program in March.

As of Tuesday, a total of 1,013,988 jabs had been administered in over 50 vaccination sites in the city. The recipients include 686,311 residents and workers. Of the number, 327,677 have received their second doses. According to the city government, the number of those who have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine represents over 40 percent of the 1.7 million target population to achieve population protection. **Mayor Joy Belmonte** expressed gratitude to the healthcare workers, volunteers and auxiliary personnel for supporting the city's vaccination program.

"The success of our program is due to your unwavering support. We are grateful for your service to our QCitizens," Belmonte said. "The key has always been a whole of city approach where all stakeholders, public and private, join hands to collaborate on this program. Through this, we are confident we will reach our goal of population protection in the coming months as soon as vaccine supply stabilizes."

Over the past months, Quezon City has launched various initiatives to encourage more people to get vaccinated.

Aside from the dozens of inoculation sites established in partnership with the different sectors, the local government also initiated home-based immunization for bedridden residents and night vaccination for workers, and deployed vaccination buses to different communities.

On June 23, the local government administered a record high of more than 45,000 vaccines in one day. Joseph Juico, co-chairman of the city's vaccination task force, said they would continue to expand and improve inoculation efforts to achieve herd immunity.

"While this achievement is an important milestone for the program, we can only relax once we have inoculated the last QCitizen eligible for the vaccine," he said.

"We can no longer feel vaccine hesitancy. Instead what we have now is vaccine envy, wherein people demand they get vaccinated. However, our problem continues to be the unstable supply of vaccines, which we hope will be addressed as the procured and donated supplies arrive regularly in the country," Juico added. Belmonte appealed to those who are waiting for their schedule to be patient as the local government awaits its vaccine allocations.

"For those who have been vaccinated, let us continue to follow basic health protocols to ensure our protection and that of our family and fellow QCitizens," she said.

Second-dose vaccinations for the recipients of Russia-made Sputnik V vaccines resumed on Wednesday following a delay due to the late arrival of the jabs.

The city government advised Sputnik V recipients to proceed to their vaccination sites to receive their second dose.