

DOH: 24 of 119 Delta variant cases in PH unvaccinated; QC reports 1st case

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The Department of Health (DOH) on Monday, July 26, said 24 of the 119 Delta variant cases in the country were not vaccinated against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Data from the DOH also showed that nine were vaccinated, while the vaccination status of the 86 other cases is still being verified.

In an online press briefing, Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said of the nine vaccinated, four received

two doses, while five received one dose.

Of the four who received two doses, she said, three had mild cases and one is asymptomatic.

Vergeire said of the five who received one dose, three were mild cases, two asymptomatic.

She also revealed that two of the three Delta cases who died were unvaccinated.

“We are still verifying the other one because this is a returning overseas Filipino,”

Vergeire said.

“We can really see, based on our data that those vaccinated can better fight off these variants,” said Vergeire, who called on the public to get vaccinated.

First Delta case in QC

As this developed, the Quezon City local government reported its first case of Delta variant – a 34-year-old male overseas Filipino worker (OFW) who arrived in the country from Saudi Arabia on June 24.

It also reported that a male working in a Quezon City factory, but living outside the city, also tested positive for the Delta variant.

The City Public Information Office (PIO) the OFW from Saudi Arabia stayed in a Makati hotel for 10 days upon his arrival.

On June 28, he had a “slightly itchy throat” and underwent a swab test two days later.

On July 4, the patient was transferred to a hotel in Manila.

Seven days after, on July 11, he was considered recovered and was allowed to go home to his family in Quezon City.

After receiving the sequenced sample of the male patient on Sunday, July 25, the Quezon City Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (CESU) immediately scheduled a swab test on the OFW and his close family and contacts on July 26.

The patient and his family have been placed under “strict home quarantine” since Sunday night, according

to the PIO.

“He will undergo another swab test, along with his family, as part of our protocol even if he is considered a recovered patient. We are doing extensive contact tracing on his close contacts just to make sure,” CESU head Dr. Rolly Cruz said.

Mayor Joy Belmonte assured the public that the local government can handle the Delta case that was detected in the city.

“We have put in place extensive measures in preparation for the Delta variant and we continue to exert all efforts to contain its possible spread. What is important is that we are intensifying testing and aggressive contact tracing,” Belmonte said.

In the case of the worker in the Quezon City factory, the CESU said contact tracing and swabbing are being done in his workplace.

“There are no reported cases yet at his place of work but we are doing this as a preventive measure to make sure we contain any possible transmission this early,” Dr. Cruz said.

The factory worker tested positive for COVID-19 on July 5, a day after

he experienced symptoms such as shortness of breath, colds, fever, and sore throat.

He was discharged from the Philippine General Hospital on July 18 after 13 days of stay.

The male factory worker’s pregnant wife also tested positive for COVID-19 on July 9 but was asymptomatic. She tested positive for the second time on July 17.

Both the factory worker and his wife were placed in a quarantine facility in another city, and will stay there until the end of July, the PIO said.

Carmona, Cavite case

The municipal government of Camona, Cavite, also reported its first case of Delta variant, Mayor Roy M. Loyola confirmed on Monday, July 26.

In a Facebook post, Loyola said that the patient is an OFW who arrived in the Philippines on June 26.

The patient underwent a seven-day quarantine in an isolation facility in Clark, Pampanga, and another seven-day quarantine in an isolation

facility in Tarlac. After which, the patient was allowed to go home to Carmona on July 13.

Once in Carmona, the patient was again required to undergo home quarantine for another seven days.

But the municipal government was informed on July 25 that the patient tested positive for the Delta variant. The patient and close contacts were immediately taken by Municipal Health Office (MHO) workers to an isolation facility.

Meanwhile, Vergeire said they are still analyzing data if the country is already seeing a community transmission, instead of just a local transmission as earlier declared.

“We need to wait for the completion of the phylogenetic analysis being conducted by the Philippine Genome Center so that we can have appropriate evidence to say if we already have a community transmission of the Delta variant,” said Vergeire.

There are already 119 Delta variant cases in the country as of July 24. (With a report from Carla Bauto Dena)