

QC ROLLS OUT J&J JABS TO ELDERLY

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THE Quezon City government has allotted its first Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine supply to its senior citizens in District 2, which has the "most number of underprivileged communities," making them "the most vulnerable" to the transmission of the Delta variant of Covid-19 and the "least able to afford hospital care."



Of the six districts, District 2 is the most populated with 738,000 residents, according to the latest data of the Philippine Statistics Authority.

Mayor Josefina "Joy" Belmonte said the decision to focus the vaccine supply on District 2 is based on "sound evidence, including the number of cases per hundred thousand, number of deaths, and other factors like minimal health seeking behavior, affecting the senior citizens in the area."

Based on records from the City Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance Unit (CESU), District 2 has 13,834 out of the 106,137 total Covid-19 cases in the city as of July 26, 2021.

The number of cases in District 2 increased by 21 percent over the past 14 days, according to Dr. Rolando Cruz, CESU chief.

For the week of July 13 to 26, the attack rates per 10,000 individuals in two villages in District 2 increased from the previous week: Batasan Hills from 3.08 to 3.43 and Bagong Silangan from 1.51 to 2.12. In three villages, a decrease was observed in Commonwealth, from 1.81 to 1.33; Payatas from 1.55 to 1.34; and Holy Spirit from 2.5 to 1.84.

Cruz said District 2 has the highest case fatality rate.

Out of the 217 individuals who have died in the district, 113 or 52 percent of deaths were aged 60 and above, the CESU report said.

Joseph Juico, co-chairman of Task Force Vax to Normal, said the limited 19,000 J&J vaccines can considerably increase population protection in District 2.

After the special rollout, the city government will continue vaccinating senior citizens in other districts with an overall target of 75,000 additional inoculated seniors by Saturday.

Belmonte has assured QC citizens that the national government has committed a regular vaccine supply to the city, even as it awaits its own procured 1.1-million doses of AstraZeneca vaccines.

Senior citizens are encouraged to register at the qceservices.quezoncity.gov.ph/qcvaxeasy to be part of the special vaccination rollout.