

3-day vax drive: QC targets 150,000 residents

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The **Quezon City government** is eyeing to inoculate 150,000 residents during the three-day national vaccination beginning today until Wednesday.



In a statement yesterday, **Mayor Joy Belmonte** said the city government would be prioritizing minors aged 12 to 17 and adults in the vaccination campaign.

The local government will also roll out booster shots for healthcare workers, elderly residents and those with comorbidities, according to Belmonte.

“We have asked groups for additional medical workers and partnered with malls to set up more inoculation sites. We want to maximize the three days allotted for this vaccination drive,” she said. For boosters, Belmonte said city hall would be using AstraZeneca vaccines. Out of 1.1 million doses of AstraZeneca jabs procured in 2020, around 229,000 doses have been received by the local government.

Aside from administering first doses and booster shots, the second dose vaccination of pediatric and adult population will proceed as scheduled, Belmonte said.

Malou Eleria, who heads the QC Task Force Vax to Normal, said residents may choose the vaccine brand they prefer, but the city can only provide the type of vaccine available at the sites.

“The best vaccine is the one available. Since Quezon City’s COVID-19 situation is improving, it is important to continue administering boosters. Studies have shown that there is higher immunity against the virus once a person receives a booster shot,” Eleria said.

The local government has set up special vaccination sites in malls, including SM North Edsa Skydome, Eastwood City, Robinsons Magnolia, Waltermart North EDSA, SM Fairview, SM Novaliches, Fairview Terraces, Fisher Mall and Crossroad Parkway Mall. Vaccinations will also be done at the Smart Araneta Coliseum and Elements at Centris.

Fastfood chain McDonald’s also established inoculation sites at its stores for pediatric vaccination. The Philippine Medical Association will vaccinate healthcare workers in its office auditorium. Medical teams from Tzu Chi Foundation, Healthway, National Grid Corp. of the Philippines and religious groups will also extend assistance in the inoculation drive.

The schedules, vaccination sites, available slots and other details are posted in the Quezon City government’s Facebook page and official website.

The local government will be sending two medical teams to Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija to assist them in the threeday vaccination program. The teams are composed of doctors, nurses and other health workers. –