

## QC offers Covid jabs to pride march participants

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THE Pride PH, one of the broadest networks of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual (LGBTQIA+) individuals and organizations, has partnered with the **Quezon City government** to mount one of the pride marches under ‘#OnePride – Alab for Love Pride PH Festival.’

“We are very proud and honored to serve as host of the Alab for Love Pride PH Festival. We also like to thank the LGBTQIA+ community for choosing us as the venue for their event set on June 25, 2022,” Belmonte said during the launching of the event held at the City Hall grounds with the key organizers led by Mela Habijan, Miss Trans Global 2020 and lead convener of Pride PH.

“This is a testament of Quezon City’s status as a staunch ally of the LGBTQIA+ community. We are always here to support all of your current and future endeavors,” the mayor added.

She said her administration will remain committed to uphold and fight for the rights and welfare of the LGBTQIA+ community.

“In our city, you will remain protected and cared for,” Belmonte said.

The local government will also administer Covid-19 vaccination and provide free human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) screening to attendees during the event.

In Metro Manila, there are two pride marches that can accommodate attendees from the north and south, the organizers said.

“It is a one-day festival that celebrates the LGBTQIA+ community and this gathering will be more accessible to people in the northern part of Metro Manila,” Habijan said.

“We had no other city in mind for this, only Quezon City. We all know that they are very supportive of the LGBTQIA+ community. In fact, it is the first city to implement an Anti-Discrimination Ordinance. So, it is only fitting to do the Pride PH Festival in Quezon City,” Habijan said.

This will make the event accessible to everyone, Habijan said as she added that aside from Quezon City and Pasay, other pride marches under the #OnePride campaign will happen in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

“To push for a more robust and unified LGBTQIA+ voice, #OnePride hopes to demonstrate a strong show of force through the various Philippine pride marches happening simultaneously at 3 p.m. on June 25, 2022,” Habijan said.

Every month of June, Habijan said various LGBTQIA+ organizations, individuals and allies gather on the streets to celebrate and commemorate the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, which happened 53 years ago.

According to Wikipedia, the Stonewall riots were a series of spontaneous protests by members of the gay community in response to a police raid that began in the early morning hours of June 28, 1969, at the Stonewall Inn in the Greenwich Village neighborhood of Lower Manhattan in New York City.

“We are thankful for those who started this movement. Our sisters, lesbians and transwomen paved the way for us. We also applaud Metro Manila Pride for continuing what started in 1992. But we also want to spotlight other pride marches happening in the country, and that is what #OnePride hopes to achieve,” Habijan said.