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DOH vows to more prudent before introducing new vaccine to PH public

By Analou De Vera

The Department of Health (DOH) assured that it will exercise more prudence before introducing a new vaccine to the public.



Department of Health Secretary Francisco Duque III (CZAR DANCEL / MANILA BULLETIN)

“Prudence dictates that any new vaccines introduced in the market, we cannot just implement it nationwide. You need to wait for the results—definitive clinical trials studies,” said Health Secretary Francisco Duque III.

Duque made the comment after the world’s first anti-malaria vaccine was rolled out in Malawi last April. It will be made available to children up to two years old. The malaria vaccine is also set to be introduced in Ghana and Kenya.

The health chief said that clinical studies will help them decide if they will adopt a new vaccine.

“The result of such will help guide the DOH leadership whether to adopt this new vaccines or not, or if we will— to what extent are we going to implement it?,” he stressed.

“We can always do a small pilot implementation, because again, prudence dictates that any new health product, medicines, or vaccines—we have to exercise extreme caution in implementing that,” he added.

Previously, the DOH said that the Dengvaxia controversy has become a “big lesson” for them when it comes to introducing a new health program. To note, the health department launched its dengue vaccination initiative in Central Luzon, Calabarzon, and National Capital Region in 2016, but was eventually put on hold after the Dengvaxia vaccine manufacturer, Sanofi Pasteur, revealed that it may cause severe dengue to first-time dengue patients.