



Delta variant symptoms not yet established – DOH

By **SHEILA CRISOSTOMO**

The Department of Health (DOH) asked the public yesterday to keep a close eye on any possible symptom of COVID-19 as the clinical manifestations of the Delta variant have not yet been established.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said there are "anecdotal" accounts that the symptoms of Delta variant are different from those of the original COVID-19.

"We really cannot differentiate, at this point, which are symptoms of Delta variant and which are not," she said at a press briefing.

Vergeire noted that it remains "anecdotal" that Delta variant cases do not experience loss of taste or smell, which have long been associated with COVID-19.

"There are different presentations of illnesses in COVID-19. There are those who experience body pains and when you test them, it's COVID-19," she said.

On the other hand, there are

senior citizens who only lose their appetite and turn out to be positive for COVID-19 when tested.

"That shows you how varied the symptoms of COVID-19 can be," Vergeire said. "What is important is we keep high index of suspicion because we all know that the transmission of the virus is fast."

When experiencing any symptom, Vergeire underscored the need to go on self isolation.

"Isolate, call your local government units or barangay hotlines and get tested. In this manner, we can cut the transmission of the virus," she said.

A member of the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group has expressed concern over the rising positivity rate of COVID-19 in the country.

Based on the DOH's daily tally last Tuesday, the positivity rate was pegged at 21.9 percent out of 33,070 samples tested. – With Helen Flores