



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Communications Management Unit

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DOH: Highest vaxxed NCR has lowest COVID death rate

By SHEILA CRISOSTOMO

The rate of deaths among people infected with COVID-19 is lowest in the National Capital Region (NCR), which has the highest vaccination rate among all regions in the country, the Department of Health (DOH) said yesterday.

Latest data cited by the DOH also showed fewer people dying due to COVID-19 this year than last year.

Speaking at a public briefing, Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said that the national COVID case fatality rate is pegged at 1.49 percent this year, lower than the 2.47 CFR registered in 2020.

Vergeire pointed out that the NCR or Metro Manila had the lowest CFR among regions at 0.94 percent and it "also had the highest full vaccination coverage at almost

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60 percent."

In a statement, the DOH said the lower CFR this year may be attributed to various factors such as "vaccination efforts, upgrades in our health and critical care capacity, referral systems and clinical management."

"Similarly, for NCR, lower CFR was multi-factorial, which includes its high vaccination coverage and increases in its health and critical care capacity," it added.

Data showed the highest CFR was observed in Mimaropa (Mindoro provinces, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan) or Region 4-B at 3.04 percent, followed by the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) at 2.32 percent, Cagayan Valley or Region 2 at 2.30 percent, Caraga or Region 13 at 2.28 percent and Central Luzon or Region 3 at 2.18 percent.

Data further showed that the vaccination rates in these five regions with the highest CFR are 13.61 percent for Mimaropa, 7.57 percent for BARMM, 15.94 percent for Cagayan Valley, 18.10 for Caraga and 17.53 percent for Central Luzon.

But Vergeire warned: "This should be interpreted with caution since there are delays in reporting of deaths."

Meanwhile, the CFR in Central Visayas or Region 7 was pegged at 2.14 percent, followed by Zamboanga Peninsula or Region 9 (2.10 percent), Soccsksargen or Region 12 (1.99 percent), Cordillera Administrative Region (1.87 percent), Bicol or Region 5 (1.74 percent), Davao or Region 11 (1.64 percent), Northern Mindanao or Region 10

(1.03 percent) and Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) or Region 4-A (1.0 percent).

Vergeire said they noted that the "highest CFR was in March to April of 2020 at 10 to 19 percent. This decreased to around 2 percent by August of 2020 and further decreased to less than 2 percent by February of 2021." She claimed the lowest monthly CFR was recorded in August 2021 at 1.04 percent.

NCR reproduction number down

Yesterday, a fellow of OCTA Research said the reproduction number of COVID-19 in Metro Manila is still decreasing, but at a much slower pace.

The reproduction number indicates the number of persons a positive individual can infect, with less than 1.0 considered as ideal as it indicates a downward trend in the new number of cases.

OCTA fellow Guido David said that as of yesterday, the reproduction number in the NCR is 1.34; down from 1.39 last week.

It reached as high as 1.9 last month.

He said the region recorded an average of 5,854 daily new cases from Sept. 8 to 14, up 11 percent from the preceding week.

Asked on Twitter if the country has already reached its peaked, David responded: "No, but maybe getting close."

With almost 17,000 cases recorded across the country on Wednesday, David said the country's reproduction number has decreased to 1.23 with a growth rate of six percent compared to last week.

"Close to the downward trend but still so far," he added. — With Sheila Crisostomo, Janvic Mateo

