

HEADLINES 2 1

# Disease expert not recommending 2nd booster shot, for now

By: [Leila B. Salaverria](#), [Tina G. Santos](#) - @inquirerdotnet Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:46 AM February 19, 2022



FILE PHOTO: Dr. Edsel Maurice Salvana is the director of the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology at the National Institutes of Health at the University of the Philippines Manila. (Photo from an RTVM video)

An infectious diseases expert on Friday advised the public against getting a second COVID-19 booster shot as it was still uncertain if that would offer enough benefits.

Dr. Edsel Salvana, a member of the Technical Advisory Group of the Department of Health (DOH), said one booster dose would certainly increase defense against infection and also slightly increases protection against a severe case.

He said experts believed that a second booster shot could only offer a small increase in protection against severe disease.

The administration of the second booster dose would have to be studied further, Salvana said.

EDITORS' PICK MOST READ

GLOBALNATION  
**141 Filipinos still remain in Ukraine despite escalating violence**

LIFESTYLE  
**Top refrigerator picks from Fujidenzo based on your lifestyle and needs**

LIFESTYLE  
**Make Growrich VCO Capsules a part of your self-care routine**

NEWSINFO  
**Filipinos in Russia face struggle in sending remittances as banks bear sanctions**

BUSINESS  
**See through the Heart of Iloilo with SMDC's Style Residences**

NEWSINFO  
**Putin's war on Ukraine and impact on PH prices**

News that matters

Your e-mail address

By providing an email address, I agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and acknowledge that I have read the [Privacy Policy](#).

single shot vaccine, and this should be the ongoing studies to produce the next generation of vaccines or reformulated shots to combat variants of concern could be better candidates for the second booster shot, if this was ever recommended.

### Targeted sector

If a second booster dose or fourth shot would be offered, it might only be given to a targeted sector, such as health-care workers highly exposed to the coronavirus, and to the vulnerable population, he said.

What is more important is for people to get their primary vaccine, which would give significant protection against severe disease, Salvana said.

The government is aiming to ramp up its vaccination rate, as its third nationwide campaign reached only around 3 million individuals, below its 5-million target, according to Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire.

The government may hold a fourth national vaccination drive, she said.

“This is a strategy of the government for us to be able to mop out all of those who are still not vaccinated or all of those who are still yet to receive their booster doses,” Vergeire said.

She also said more than 329,000 children in the 5 to 11 age group received their first dose.

Vergeire urged those who were eligible for a booster shot to get it as soon as possible to increase their protection against COVID-19.

### Risk of stillbirths

She also encouraged pregnant women to get vaccinated against COVID-19 to avoid the risk of stillbirths.

“COVID-19 infection could affect the placenta of a pregnant woman, which could result in fetal injury or the death of the fetus in the womb,” Vergeire said.

She cited the British Medical Journal report on 5,000 unvaccinated pregnant women who were afflicted with severe COVID-19 and experienced complications that caused critical care admissions, stillbirth and early neonatal deaths.

Vergeire also said the antibodies that the mothers would get from the vaccine could be passed on to their babies.

As of Feb. 17, the Philippines has 62.100 million fully vaccinated individuals

reported 2,232 new infections on Friday. **INQUIRER.NET**

OCTA fellow Guido David said NCR's average daily attack rate (Adar) was 3.45 with a 0.20 reproduction number and a health-care utilization rate of 26 percent.

Adar refers to the average number of new cases in a population of 100,000. For OCTA, the acceptable Adar is below 10.

The reproduction number refers to the number of people infected by a single case. A reproduction number below one indicates that the transmission of the virus is slowing down.

### **New cases in Metro**

The DOH said NCR had the most number of new cases with 378, followed by Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) with 236 and Central Visayas with 212.

The country's positivity rate was 9.1 percent based on 29,812 people tested on Wednesday.

The positivity rate refers to the percentage of the tests that came out positive for coronavirus. The World Health Organization's benchmark positivity rate of below 5 percent, sustained for two weeks, indicates that virus transmission is under control.

The COVID-19 tally on Friday did not include figures from five laboratories which failed to submit their data to the COVID-19 Document Repository System, the DOH said.

The national caseload reached 3,648,925 on Friday.

The DOH said 2,131, or 95 percent of the new cases, occurred from Feb. 5 to Feb. 18.

It said there were 65,796 active cases. Of the total, 60,252 were mild, 946 asymptomatic, 2,869 moderate, 1,422 severe and 307 critical.

### **Recoveries**

The 3,010 recoveries brought the total number of survivors of the severe respiratory disease to 3,527,720.

The death toll rose by 79 to 55,330, with 16 of the deaths reported to have occurred this month and the rest between July 2021 and January 2022 but were reported only on Friday.

The DOH said 32 percent of COVID-19 intensive care unit beds in Metro

The DOH said 21 percent of ventilators av **INQUIRER.NET** , patients were in use. It was 17 percent for the whole country.

gsg

**INQ PLUS** **FREE 30-DAY TRIAL**

**CLICK HERE**



**INQ Newsletters**

Straightforward information, forwarded straight to your device.

**SUBSCRIBE NOW!**

READ NEXT

## Lorenzana: Pink ribbon harassment 'uncalled for'

Don't miss out on the latest news and information.  Like us  Follow us

Subscribe to **INQUIRER PLUS** to get access to The Philippine Daily Inquirer & other 70+ titles, share up to 5 gadgets, listen to the news, download as early as 4am & share articles on social media. Call 896 6000.

**TAGS:** [Booster Shot](#), [COVID-19 Vaccine](#), [DoH](#), [Edsel Salvana](#), [Vergeire](#)

For feedback, complaints, or inquiries, [contact us](#).

**Disclaimer:** Comments do not represent the views of INQUIRER.net. We reserve the right to exclude comments which are inconsistent with our editorial standards. [FULL DISCLAIMER](#)

**THE INQUIRER CHANNELS**

---

- News
- Sports
- Entertainment
- Lifestyle
- Technology
- Business
- Opinion
- Global Nation
- USA NEWS

**SERVICES**

---

- Mobile
- RSS
- Email Us
- Archive
- Contact Us
- Newsletter
- Job Openings

**THE INQUIRER COMPANY**

---

- About INQUIRER.net
- About the INQUIRER
- User Agreement
- Link Policy
- Privacy Policy
- Article Index

**PARTNERS**

---

- Libre
- Hinge Inquirer
- Bandera
- Cebu Daily News
- DZIQ990 AM
- Motion Cars