Makati preps measles vaccines for 46k kids

By Joel E. Zurbano

THE Makati City government is expanding its measles vaccination campaign by including children in Kinder to Grade 6 in the target age group, in line with the government’s intensified efforts to prevent the spread of the disease in the community.

Mayor Abigail Binay tapped officials of the Makati Health Department to conduct the vaccination to an estimated 46,858 children at their respective schools, home or barangay health centers.

“The measles vaccine has been around for decades and has been proven safe and effective. I am appealing to everyone to place your children’s health and safety first. Have them vaccinated and tell your friends and family to have their kids vaccinated, too. This is the only way we can rebuild ‘herd immunity’ and keep infectious diseases like measles down,” Binay appealed.

To date, Makati City has 38 reported measles cases, mostly from Barangays East Rembo and Penbo. Barangays Rizal and Palanan are closely being monitored for possible clustering of measles cases.

“Since measles cases peak during the hot summer months, we expect the numbers to rise if we do not act swiftly. Parents and guardians must set their biases aside and have their children vaccinated against measles for their protection,” said Binay.

The city chief executive said the MHD has mobilized all its personnel, including barangay health workers, to assist in the anti-measles vaccination drive. “They are knocking on doors and going house to house to ensure the safety and protection of our children,” she said.

She noted that even though Makati has one of the lowest number of recorded measles cases in Metro Manila, children are still susceptible to measles infection because of low herd immunity. This can only be remedied by increasing the number of vaccinated children everywhere.

Earlier, the MHD extended the intensive campaign until March 31 on the mayor’s orders.

The vaccines can be received from health workers going house to house simultaneously in the barangays; daily at all barangay health centers; and from all public schools in the city. The Palanan 24/7 health center has also been opened as a fixed post for round the clock vaccination.