

Belmonte approves disinfection guidelines

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Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte has approved a uniform policy on the method for cleaning and disinfecting critical infrastructure and the environment amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

In approving the policy crafted by the city's incident management team, Belmonte stressed the need for a clear process when it comes to disinfecting infrastructure and other public areas in the city.

“Failure to properly disinfect the environment carries not only risk associated with breach of host barriers but also risk for person-to-person transmission and transmission of environmental pathogens,” said Belmonte.

The management team said it is necessary that evidence-based protocols be established on the ideal means of cleaning and disinfecting various buildings and other public spaces.

The guidelines cover public outdoor spaces such as parks, roads, markets, building facades, health care and community caring facilities and other public facilities and funeral parlors dedicated for use in COVID-19 related operations.

Also included were residential areas and communities, as well as vehicles used to transport suspected, probable and confirmed COVID-19 cases.

The order mandates that public outdoor spaces and building facades be disinfected through spraying disinfectants evenly across all exposed public features, including roads sidewalks, walls and vehicle exteriors.

At least one day prior to the operations, concerned barangays will be informed about it so they can advise residents to stay indoors and away from areas being disinfected.

Selection of areas for disinfection will be conducted through evidence-based risk assessment by the local government, based on the current COVID-19 situation.

Indoor spaces and environmental surfaces in healthcare and community care facilities and funeral parlors should be cleaned on a regular basis.

For vehicle interior and upholstery, misting and spraying of disinfectant should be conducted twice a day. The disinfectant should be dried completely before using the vehicle again.

The management team stressed the need to follow manufacturer's instructions for proper use of disinfecting products, including the recommended use-dilution, material compatibility, storage, shelf life, safe use and disposal.

All personnel conducting disinfection and cleaning operations must wear appropriate personal protective equipment.