

Testing centers set up in all QC districts

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Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte said that additional coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) testing centers will be opened this week in all of the city's six districts to cater to more people suspected to be afflicted with the virus.

"We are opening more testing centers located in different districts so that we can accommodate and identify more residents who might have COVID-19," Belmonte said.

In a statement, the Quezon City government said Monday that Districts 4, 5, and 6 will have their own testing centers.

The statement noted that District 5 testing center is located at SB Park Novaliches while that of District 6 is situated at the University of the Philippines (UP) Asian Institute of Tourism on Commonwealth Avenue.

The first community-based testing center inaugurated last week at the Quezon City Experience (QCX) in Quezon Memorial Circle (QMC) will now cater to District 4 residents.

As for Districts 1, 2 and 3, Belmonte said their locations are still being finalized but will be opened on Tuesday.

These testing centers will be equipped with swab booths and will target 50 tests per day, including blood testing and x-ray.

Belmonte said the testing centers will have direct coordination with various barangay health centers with district health officers manning and supervising the booths.

The city government aims to conduct around 1,800-2,000 swab tests per week, including those administered by the local government hospitals namely Quezon City General Hospital, Rosario Maclang Bautista General Hospital and Novaliches District Hospital, and the Quezon City Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (QCESU) in their contact tracing.

Belmonte explained that the specimens from these facilities will be forwarded to the partner hospitals -- Lung Center of the Philippines and St. Luke's Medical Center-Quezon City -- for testing.

She added that the partnership between the Quezon City government and Philippine Red Cross will also start this week with 1,500 tests.

Meanwhile, community-based testing Project Manager Joseph Juico added that the city entered into a partnership with the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) to help in the community-based testing.

The QCPD has provided 30 nurses and six medical technicians from the Philippine National Police (PNP) who will help the QCESU headed by Dr. Rolly Cruz in contact tracing.

With the additional manpower, there will be a total of eight teams doing house-to-house confirmatory tests.

The nurses and medical technicians are trained to do nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabbing and will administer the test for senior citizens in various barangays.

They will also help in the swab testing in testing centers, and provide support in the city's Hope quarantine facilities allotted for confirmed, suspected or probable COVID-19 patients.