

QC inmates to be tested for Covid

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THE Quezon City government now requires persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) to undergo testing before their commitment to detention facilities to prevent the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19).

Mayor Josefina “Joy” Belmonte signed Executive Order 30 after the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) and the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) reported cases of Covid-19 in their respective detention facilities.

“We have installed guidelines that will be observed when the court orders the commitment of a PDL to a detention facility managed by the BJMP,” Belmonte said.

“The guidelines will likewise cover those arrested by authorities before they are detained in a police precinct or facility,” she added.

After the court issued the commitment of a PDL into the Quezon City Jail (QCJ), the order mandates the BJMP to coordinate with the Quezon City Health Department to arrange for their Covid-19 testing in a separate quarantine facility.

Belmonte said inmates would remain in the quarantine facility while waiting for the test results. If the result is negative, they will be transferred to the QCJ. If it is positive, they will remain in the quarantine facility for treatment or transferred to another facility.

The mayor said inmates would only be committed to the QCJ if they were cleared of the contagion.

Before an inmate is released from the QCJ or any QCPD-run detention facility, they will undergo a medical examination to determine whether Covid-19 testing is necessary.

Belmonte encouraged the BJMP and QCPD to conduct regular health monitoring of inmates in their custody and immediately notify the QCHD if any detainee exhibits Covid-19 symptoms.

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