

QC forms quarantine team

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The Quezon City government announced Tuesday the creation of a team of quarantine officers to beef-up its continuing campaign against the coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19). Known as the “QC Laban COVID-19”, the team will strictly monitor locations within the barangays that will be placed under special concern lockdown (SCL) for huge number of COVID-19 cases.

The team is composed of elements from the **Quezon City Health Department (QCHD)**, the **Quezon City Police District (QCPD)**, Special Action Force (SAF), and the Armed Forces of the Philippines’ Joint Task Force-National Capital Region (JTF-NCR) under Brig. Gen. Alex Luna. **Assistant City Administrator for Operations** Alberto Kimpo said the QCHD, led by its Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (ESU), will be accompanied by two personnel from the QCPD and three from the AFP which include one regular officer and two reservists.

“They will be deployed to locations that will be placed under special concern lockdown to ensure that quarantine processes are strictly followed,” said Kimpo.

The quarantine officers will conduct information dissemination where the residents will be briefed on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in their community.

After the 14-day period in the barangays under the special concern lockdown, the QCHD will also conduct extensive testing in those areas to ensure that they are COVID-19 free

Dr. Rolly Cruz, head of the QCESU said more than 200 members of the QCPDAFP-SAF contingent will undergo training to guarantee that all quarantine rules are implemented. He added that the selection of the areas that will be placed under special concern lockdown will be based on the results of the community-based testing conducted by the QCHD and the QCESU. “If clustering was observed in these areas, meaning two or more households in each area have positive cases, it is very likely they will end up under the special concern lockdown,” said Cruz.

The QCHD may also place urban poor and highly dense locations in the barangays under special concern lockdown if there are presence of clustering.

Mayor Joy Belmonte assured that the city government will provide food and other relief goods and services to the residents in the affected areas until the SCL is lifted.

She also appealed to local residents to fully cooperate with the city government in the fight against COVID19. (Chito A. Chavez)