

## Caloocan, QC villages on lockdown

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Even as Metro Manila prepares to transition to modified enhanced community quarantine on 16 May, some local governments are placing select villages under lockdown to further contain the spread of the virus.

In Caloocan City, Barangay 156, Bagong Barrio will be subjected to a two-day lockdown beginning today, 13 May until 15 May.

The Caloocan Public Information Office (PIO) said Barangay 156 has the highest number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the city.

As of 12 May, it has on record 25 COVID-19 cases or 8.36 percent of the 299 cases in the city. For two days, quarantine passes will be canceled to keep residents indoors.

Swab tests and contact tracing will also be conducted in the area to identify infected individuals or those who could have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.

There will also be increased police visibility within Barangay 156.

Meanwhile, 20 areas in five barangays in Quezon City will be placed under a 14-day special concern lockdown, starting at 5 a.m., today, 13 May due to the high number of COVID-19 cases.

Affected barangays include Barangays Bahay Toro, Culiati, Sauyo, Batasan Hills and Tatalon.

As of 11 May, Barangay Bahay Toro has 21 active cases; Culiat, 37; Sauyo, 19; Batasan Hills, 29; and Tatalon, 17.

Alberto Kimpo, Assistant City Administrator for Operations, said the areas were initially selected by the City Health Department (CHD) based on the results of community-based testing through its Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (ESU).

“Rather than a total lockdown over the entire barangay, we will focus our attention on areas within that showed a clustering of

COVID-19 cases. It may just be a street, a block or a compound,” Kimpo said.

“We will also look at areas with high density population that fail to practice quarantine protocols. It is in these areas that there is a higher possibility of infection, that’s why we need to include them in the containment,” he added.

Kimpo assured residents of affected areas that the city government will provide them with food and other assistance.

During the 14-day quarantine, intensified testing and monitoring will be implemented in these areas.

Quarantine officers from the newly formed QC Laban COVID-19 team will help the QC-ESU perform its job by ensuring the strict enforcement of quarantine rules.

Aside from ensuring strict implementation of quarantine processes, the officers are also mandated to conduct information dissemination on how to combat the spread of COVID-19 in the community.