

QC Hall of Justice under lockdown

During the lockdown, no person will be allowed entry to the building as part of disinfection measures

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The entire Quezon City Hall of Justice was placed on lockdown yesterday following the death allegedly from COVID-19 of an employee who works in the building. The building shutdown was ordered by Quezon City Executive Judge Cecilyn Burgos-Villavert in an official statement posted on the Supreme Court (SC) Public Information Office's Twitter account.

In her post, Villavert said, "Considering that the instant matter still needs to be verified, and if true, contact tracing and building disinfection must first be undertaken. The Hall of Justice Quezon City (main and annex) will be on lockdown beginning 18 May 2020, until further notice."

She denied that an employee of either the Regional Trial Court (RTC) or Metropolitan Trial Court (MeTC) in Quezon City died from COVID-19. However, she said there was an unverified report that "an employee of another agency holding office at the Hall of Justice died of severe pneumonia and suspected COVID-19." It was reported the said employee went to the Hall of Justice, a few days before passing away.

During the lockdown, no person will be allowed entry to the building as part of disinfection measures. Villavert said under SC Administrative Circular 39-2020, all initiatory pleadings, in both civil and criminal cases including criminal complaints, information and applications for bail, together with all the required documents, shall be filed electronically and received by the Office of the Clerk of Court of the RTC and MeTC through their official e-mail addresses, as posted on the SC website. The High Court earlier issued a circular stating that all pleadings and other court submissions on pending cases will be filed electronically directly with the branch of court where the case is pending through the official email address of the concerned branch.