

QC issues COVID guidelines for floods, rainy season

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The Quezon City local government has released guidelines on dealing with the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) during floods and other disasters that may happen during the rainy season.

“The COVID-19 pandemic brings new challenges to disaster preparedness, especially preparedness for the rainy season,” Mayor Joy Belmonte said in the guidelines released yesterday.

“Disease surveillance, physical distancing, the use of face masks, enhanced sanitation and disinfection are just some of the concerns that may complicate risk reduction and management measures,” she added.

She said the guidelines are intended to ensure continuing mitigation of the pandemic even in the course of dealing with floods, typhoons and other risks during the rainy season.

Belmonte directed the city’s disaster risk reduction and management office to maintain a list of floodprone areas and identify evacuation locations, such as schools and covered courts.

She also ordered maintaining an up-to-date list of suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases to ensure that they are transported and sheltered separately in case of evacuations.

Responders should have the appropriate personal protective equipment during rescue or evacuation operations to ensure their safety.

Evacuees should also maintain proper physical distancing when being transported to the designated evacuation facility.

At evacuation centers, mass gatherings should be prevented by adopting arrangements that would enable evacuees to maintain at least one-meter distance from one another.