

Another QC street on lockdown

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The Quezon City government has placed another street on “special concern lockdown” after health officials logged six cases of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the area. A COVID-19 patient who infected three persons in the same house and two more individuals from different households prompted the local government to place on lockdown King Christian street in Barangay Bagbag.

“We have to enforce the lockdown to avoid the virus from spreading to other streets,” Assistant **City Administrator for operations** Alberto Kimpo said, adding that 59 families reside in the area. The city’s Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (ESU) said the distribution of case investigation forms started yesterday.

“We will conduct polymerase chain reaction or PCR testing on Wednesday until Friday,” ESU chief Rolly Cruz said.

The city government earlier placed Calle 29 in Libis, Kangin Bukid in Apolonio Samson, Ermin Garcia and 52 Imperial streets along E. Rodriguez Avenue under lockdown amid the clustering of COVID-19 cases.

City hall extended the lockdown in Kaingin Bukid to be able to complete 1,000 PCR tests among the residents. The area has been under special concern lockdown since June 10.

“Starting on Monday, the national government will help conduct PCR testing in the city. They plan to test 500 individuals per week,” Cruz said.

Out of 573 individuals who underwent rapid testing on Ermin Garcia and Imperial streets, only six were found positive for the virus.

“A portion Calle 29 will remain on lockdown after nine COVID-19 cases were posted in the area,” Cruz said.

The city health department recently lifted the lockdown on Sitio Militar in Barangay Bahay Toro after no new COVID-19 cases were recorded following the 14-day lockdown.

Mayor Joy Belmonte said the decreasing number of areas under lockdown proved that the quarantine measure is an effective way in preventing the transmission of the virus.

City hall employees involved in social amelioration program payouts, packing of relief goods and others on-duty while Metro Manila was under the enhanced community quarantine or ECQ would be prioritized for COVID-19 testing that began yesterday.

“We will prioritize those who reported to work during the ECQ because there is a higher chance that they have been exposed to the virus,” Belmonte said.

Personnel of other departments who were not on-duty during the ECQ will also be tested, subject to the availability of test kits.

Those who have shown symptoms of the virus will immediately undergo PCR testing, according to the city health department.