

Install public handwashing stations

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Quezon City 5th District Rep. Alfred Vargas urged local government units (LGU) to install handwashing stations in public places to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Vargas said placing handwashing stations in marketplaces, transport terminals, and other areas identified with heavy foot traffic would benefit workers who are not working from home.

“Handwashing has proven to be the most effective way to help protect us from acquiring and spreading the virus,” Vargas said.

“While telecommuting is a viable option for some, there are still a lot of blue-collar Filipino workers who can't afford to stay home, as they have to be physically present at their jobs,” he added.

He said the move will also protect streetchildren and the homeless from COVID-19.

Vargas said the handwashing stations should have at least liquid soap dispensers, clean water, sanitizers and disposable hand towels.

These stations, he said, could also be set up at strategic locations for the government to post COVID-19 related health and safety information.

Meanwhile, Rep. Ronnie Ong of Ang Probinsyano Partylist urged the Interagency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases to set up a COVID-19 protocol and monitoring help desk and testing centers in all barangays nationwide.

Ong said barangay health workers, who would be equipped with full personal protective equipment (PPE), should man the help desk.

“I recommend that we set up barangay monitoring and help desks for residents who feel that they may have been infected by the COVID-19 virus,” he said.

“If test kits are already available, they can administer tests with the help of health professionals, but if not, these barangay monitoring and help desks can help implement quarantine protocols until after the Department of Health conducts proper testing. They must be equipped with PPE at all times,” he explained.

“If we can promptly detect the disease and isolate those infected in our barangays, we would have a better chance to minimize the opportunity for this dreaded virus to spread further to other communities,” he added.