

# Joy puts 2 QC villages under 'extreme quarantine'

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AT LEAST two villages in Quezon City have been placed under “extreme lockdown” and some hospitals under “facility quarantine” starting 6 a.m. Thursday as the number of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases continue to rise.

Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte said as of Wednesday afternoon, there were 29 COVID-19 cases in the city.

Those placed under “extreme lockdown” were barangays Tandang Sora and Kalusugan, while hospitals under “facility quarantine” were East Avenue Medical Center, Philippine Heart Center,

## LOCAL ROUNDUP

National Kidney and Transplant Institute, St. Luke’s Medical Center and Quirino Memorial Medical Center.

Karl Michael Marasigan, the city’s Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office chief, said checkpoints and surveillance teams have been set up in the two villages under extreme lockdown.

Residents in the affected barangays will not be allowed to leave their homes and nobody will be allowed to enter as well.

*Next page*



Mayor Joy Belmonte

# Joy...

*From A1*

“We have identified three patients in Kalusugan coming from different residences,” Marasigan said.

The egress and ingress of St. Luke’s, which is located on E. Rodriguez Avenue in Barangay Kalusugan, District 4, will be closely and strictly monitored.

“E. Rodriguez Avenue shall be closed to traffic, except for delivery supplies, family members with patients at St. Luke’s, doctors and other health workers, authorized government personnel, and others performing essential supplies,” Marasigan said.

A physician and an elevator operator contracted the disease from a patient at St. Luke’s, the mayor said.

“In the area of East Avenue, where the Philippine Heart Center, East Avenue Medical Center and National Kidney Institute and Transplant are, there will be closure from Elliptical Road to East Avenue to BIR Road. There will be checkpoints and screening, and that non-essentials would not be allowed,” Marasigan said.

Dr. Rolly Cruz, city epidemiologist, said “of the 29 COVID-19 cases, 18 percent have no travel history. Most of them have no close contact to hospital with (COVID-19) confinement or with confirmed cases.”

“Fourteen persons have no known exposure, while 35 percent have been tested positive because of severe pneumonia. Most cases are community transmission,” he said.

Marasigan said there will be no road closure going to and from the Quirino Memorial Medical Center in District 3, but police checkpoints will be put up at its entrance.

The Quezon City Police District on Wednesday reminded the public that curfew hours between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m. would be strictly enforced.

A part of Tondo in Manila was also locked down on Wednesday as residents in the district continued to loiter on the streets despite the government directive to stay indoors.

Manila Public Information Office chief Julius Leonen said non-residents of Manila’s Zone 4—which covers Dagupan and Tayuman streets, and portions of Tondo—will be restricted from these areas.

President Rodrigo Duterte has placed the entire Luzon under a month-long enhanced community quarantine.

Under the lockdown, public transportation, malls and other establishments that do not sell basic necessities are suspended as communities are advised to stay indoors to stop possible contamination.

As of Wednesday noon, 193 people in the Philippines have contracted the disease.

Fourteen have died, 7 recovered, while the rest remain confined in hospitals.

Manila will be requiring “quarantine passes” for individuals who need to go out of their homes just to buy basic necessities like food and medicine, a Manila City Hall official said on Wednesday.