

QC plans special lockdown extension

Its 44 families cramped in a 70-square meter compound makes Certeza in great risk of community transmission

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The **Quezon City local government** is looking into extending the 14-day lockdown in 11 locations that were placed under special concern lockdown (SCL) as it plans to continue rapid testing on all individuals in these areas.

These areas are Sitio Militar in Barangay Bahay Toro; Vargas Compound-Adelfa Metro Heights-Abanay and Ancop Canada in Barangay Culiat; Lower Gulod in Barangay

A 13-year-old girl perished when the shanty where her family lived collapsed last Monday and fell into the creek beside it.

The girl was the only casualty in the incident that occurred in Barangay Obrero, Quezon City.

On the other hand, those injured included Christina Macabagdal, 59, the victim's grandmother and children Mark Christian Macabagadal, 19, and a 12-year-old boy.

They were taken to East Avenue

Sauyo; 318 Dakila Street, 2nd Alley Kalayaan B and Masbate Street in Barangay Batasan Hills; and Victory Avenue, ROTC Hunters, BMA Avenue and Agno Street in Barangay Tat-alon.

Meanwhile, two more areas will be placed under SCL.

An estimated 156 families, comprising 500 individuals, will undergo rapid testing to help determine the spread of COVID-19 in the area.

In a letter to the Department of the Interior and Local Government-National Capital Region (DILG-NCR) Regional Director Maria Lourdes L. Agustin dated 26 May 2020, Alberto Kimpo, **QC Assistant City Administrator for Operations**, identified the areas as Certeza Compound in Barangay Culiat and Alley 2 Homart Road in Barangay Baesa.

While Certeza Compound has only one confirmed COVID-19 case, Kimpo said the area's dense population makes it a candidate for SCL, as recommended by the **QC Health Department (QCHD)** and requested by the Barangay Culiat leadership.

Kimpo added, "Its 44 families cramped in a 70-square meter compound makes Certeza in great risk of community transmission."

The assistant city administrator disclosed the QCHD will conduct rapid testing on 200 individuals and a random rapid testing on around 450 households in the immediate vicinity of the lockdown area to check the extent of the infection in the community.

Like Certeza Compound, Alley 2 Homart Road has also been recommended by QCHD to be placed under SCL due to the dense population in the area.

At present, Dr. Rolly Cruz, QC- Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (ESU) head, said there are nine confirmed cases and one death in the area, while others are either confined in various HOPE facilities or are undergoing quarantine at home.

On the other hand, Cruz said rapid testing will be conducted in the 11 SCL areas.

“An estimated 156 families, comprising 500 individuals, will undergo rapid testing to help determine the spread of COVID-19 in the area,” he said.

Since it began rapid testing on 21 May, the QC-ESU has conducted tests on 1,419 individuals in all five barangays.

Of 1,419 individuals, 78 came out IgM and IgG positive, six were IgM positive and 11 were tested negative but symptomatic, Cruz said.

He explained that individuals who tested positive for IgM and those negative for IgG and IgM antibodies but have symptoms of COVID-19 were automatically subjected to a confirmatory PCR test.