

## QC shortens curfew hours

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MAYOR Josefina “Joy” Belmonte on Sunday said curfew hours in Quezon City will be shortened to make way for the traditional (dawn Mass).

Beginning December 16, curfew will be from 12 midnight to 3 a.m. Dawn masses begin at 4 a.m.

The general community quarantine or GCQ guideline, the mayor said, was in accordance with the latest pronouncements of the InterAgency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases and the Metro Manila Council.

“This is an important part of our Christmas celebration and culture and that is why even if we are still battling Covid-19 pandemic, we still want to keep the true spirit of Simbang Gabi,” Belmonte said.

The mayor said churches should limit the number of attendees to 30 percent of their capacity. Health protocols such as wearing of masks and face shields should be strictly observed.

Belmonte said caroling will be banned.

“We also strongly discourage commingling of multiple households in activities such as large family reunions,” she said, adding that nonessential gatherings of more than 10 persons remain strictly prohibited.

Persons between 15 to 65 years old are allowed to leave their homes, provided that they have company identification, school ID or any government-issued ID.

Children below 15, meanwhile, will be allowed to go out only for essential needs such as medical or dental appointments, but they must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian.

The city’s Public Affairs and Information Services department said gatherings for essential work-related purposes such as business meetings, government services and humanitarian services shall be allowed subject to health protocols.

Trade shows, bazaars and the like will be allowed but organizers should secure a permit.

“Whenever feasible, gatherings should use open-air venues or naturally ventilated indoor venues,” Belmonte said.