

QC postpones reopening of cinemas, arcades

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Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte announced yesterday that cinemas, video and game arcades, theme parks, and fairs will remain closed amid the surge in COVID-19 cases in the city.

Belmonte issued the directive through a revised guideline released on March 5 based on the latest issuances by the InterAgency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

The DTI's earlier memo had allowed the opening of movie houses in areas under the General Community Quarantine starting March 5.

“We are very alarmed by the latest spike in cases and we will not allow this surge to continue. We do not want to experience the ordeal of having all our hospitals overwhelmed by patients, so we will employ all means to stop it,”

Belmonte said.

The mayor also ordered the City Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (CESU) to keep monitoring the surge as this may have been caused by the new COVID-19 variants.

“We are now implementing stricter protocols in hotels used as quarantine facilities for returning OFWs and travelers. We are also coordinating more closely with the Bureau of Quarantine to see to it that the mandated 14-day quarantine period is strictly observed even if a negative swab test has been released,” Belmonte said. centers, internet cafes, and computer shops of at least 30 meters in size, may operate subject to minimum health standards.

Time-based restrictions on liquor sale have been lifted, but drinking outdoors or in sidewalks remains prohibited.

Open-air parks may operate for non-contact activities such as jogging, badminton, and others provided health and safety protocols are observed.

Berhouses, nightclubs, videoke and KTV bars, and daycare centers will remain closed.