

## OCTA says QC has highest infection rate

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Quezon City, hailed as the most populated city in the National Capital Region (NCR), continues to have the highest infection rate for the coronavirus disease, now with more than 400-plus cases per day, based on the latest data of OCTA Research.

Dr. Guido David of the University of the Philippine OCTA Research team stated during yesterday's Pandesal Forum that QC has recorded 443 cases during the period of 10 to 16 March 2021, with a daily attack rate of 14.2 percent. With overflowing hospitals, we will have critically ill people dying, because they cannot access medical care because hospital beds are full.

During the same period, Manila followed QC with 324 daily cases, with an attack rate of 17.2 percent; Pasay City with 218 cases, with 44.7 percent attack rate; Makati City with 176 cases and 27.4 percent attack rate; and Cebu City with 164 cases per day, with 16.7 percent attack rate.

Meanwhile, the **Quezon City local government** denied OCTA's report saying it has the highest rate of Covid cases. QC officials stressed the figures for the city are high since it is the biggest city in Metro Manila.

"We have 25 percent of the population of Metro Manila, and just by the laws of mathematics and statistics, it is very probable that we have the highest in absolute numbers," officials said.

Likewise, they said the LGU has limited options when it came to addressing the problem, since they are operating as part of the Metro Manila Council, which is also following instructions from the national government.

"We have limited options pertaining to how we can address the pandemic, and so we just have to do well in the areas that have been recommended to us," they added.

On the other hand, QC **Assistant City Administrator** Lord Villanueva, who participated in the forum, expressed alarm over OCTA's findings, saying if cases in the city continue to climb, then their hospitals will soon be overwhelmed, especially if interventions are not taken.

"The data really brings home the point as to how alarming the situation has become so quickly. There is really a surge in cases. We were surprised since we were informed that we only have 300plus cases per day. If it stays at 400-plus per day and climbing, our hospitals will soon be overwhelmed. With overflowing hospitals, we will have critically ill people dying, because they cannot access medical care because hospital beds are full," Villanueva said.

He said the QC government is currently focused on areas where its contract tracing has found the concentration of transmissions, such as gyms, full-service spas and Internet cafés. This was determined by the City Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit as hotspots.