

QC adopts aggressive approach vs CoViD

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The **Quezon City government** will implement a more aggressive approach to curb the spread of CoViD-19 cases as the occupancy rate in public and private hospitals in the city for patients infected with the virus reached critical level, **Mayor Joy Belmonte** announced yesterday.

Belmonte said congested communities whose residents are disregarding health protocols would be placed under lockdown even if there are no confirmed index cases.

“if local law enforcers found it difficult to enforce health guidelines in a community where residents refuse to wear face masks and observe other safety measures, then we will place the area on lockdown,” she said. “Very aggressive po tayo sa lockdown since this is the only course given to us to address the pandemic.”

Belmonte said it is better to assume that congested areas already have the virus instead of waiting for a clustering of cases before taking action.

She urged the public to strictly comply with CoViD-19 health protocols to avoid catching the virus.

“We are a bit alarmed at the state of healthcare facilities in Quezon City,” the mayor said.

Based on city hall data, Belmonte said 78 percent of intensive care unit (iCU) beds for CoViD-19 patients are occupied, way above the critical level of 70 percent.

She said CoViD-19 wards are 77 percent occupied and isolation beds are 68 percent full.

Belmonte said there are 2,032 CoViD-19 hospital beds in the city.

At the **Quezon City General hospital**, a total of 430 patients have been admitted as of March 15. The CoViD-19 iCU beds are 113 percent full.

The **novaliches District hospital** and **Rosario Maclang Bautista General hospital** have reached full capacity.

The city government has locked down 28 areas in different barangays, affecting 843 families or 2,613 people.

City hall has also intensified its contact tracing and tested around 168,775 residents for CoViD-19.

Belmonte said residents who have been tested are still required to complete the 14-day quarantine even if they are negative for the virus.

She said they would not hesitate to increase fines for violators if residents would continue disregarding health protocols.

“Kapag paulit-ulit ang violation at mataas ang porsyento, most likely tataasan natin ang multa,” Belmonte said.

As of yesterday, there were 3,812 active CoViD-19 cases in the city with 866 deaths and 32,594 recoveries.