

## QC infection rate low – Belmonte

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WHILE Quezon City has topped the list of cities with the most number of new Covid-19 cases daily, it ranks sixth in the National Capital Region in terms of infection rate.

“It is important for us to review the numbers in relation to the population of the city. Given that our city is the most populous, an increase in numbers does not automatically translate to high numbers of infection throughout our population,” said Quezon City Mayor Josefina Belmonte.

Quezon City, with a population of 3 million, registered an average 411 cases a day or 13.16 percent attack rate per 100,000 people from March 9 to 15 based on the OCTA Research Group data.

“While Quezon City tops the list of cities with the most number of daily new cases, if we compare it to their population, the cases have not truly affected a large number of residents,” Dr. Guido David of the OCTA Research Group explained.

From March 6 to 13, the City Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance Unit traced 16,133 contacts, significantly higher than the 13,000 recorded from February 27 to March 5.

Out of the 16,000, only 2,025 or 12.55 percent tested positive for Covid-19, and were immediately quarantined.

Belmonte said the local government and the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) will intensify the enforcement of health protocols in the city’s 142 villages, following the surge in Covid-19 cases in the past two weeks.

“The city government will be enforcing stricter monitoring of the implementation of health protocols with the help of QCPD led by its chief, Brig. Gen. Danilo Macerín. And to further encourage our 16 police stations in our enforcement, we will be initiating a non-cash, outputs-based incentive system for them,” she said.