

## COVID-19 reproduction rate in NCR decreasing – experts

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The reproduction rate of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the National Capital Region (NCR) is already decreasing but the region is still “in the midst” of a “terrible, terrible” virus surge, Professor Ranjit Rye of OCTA Research Team said Thursday.

“The R [reproduction number] is slowly going down but it’s not yet below 1,” Rye told reporters in a press briefing hosted by the **Quezon City government** Friday.

“Vaccinations are taking time for many reasons... [and] NCR will always be vulnerable to surges until we achieve herd immunity.”

Quezon City, the largest city in Metro Manila and the top city with the highest “absolute number” of new COVID-19 cases, is already “healing,” according to Rye.

He said it is important because if the city’s situation “is managed,” then “the situation for the whole NCR is [also] managed.”

Meanwhile, another OCTA Research fellow, Dr. Guido David, added that the government, the civil society and the private sectors “have to work harder to maintain this possibly downward trend” since “it is actually starting to reverse again.”

However, he pointed out that “this does not mean” that the public “can be complacent already” as hospitals are still congested and healthcare workers are still “overwhelmed” in terms of workload.

“It is OCTA’s conviction that if Quezon City becomes healthy... NCR improves also,” David said.

“I think these improvements will become a trend by next week,” he added.

Data presented by Quezon City **Mayor Joy Belmonte** showed that as of April 14, the city has 9,181 active COVID-19 cases and 53,236 recoveries.

According to Belmonte, the latest number of its active cases is lower than April 8’s 11,027 and April 13’s 12,021.

Hospitals around the country are running out of intensive care unit (ICU) beds for critical coronavirus disease (COVID-19) patients as the cases continue to rapidly increase, Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. bared Monday night.

During President Duterte’s Cabinet meeting, Galvez reported that the country is short of more than 600 ICU beds since the current assessment is that at least 2,000 ICU beds are needed due to coronavirus infection rate while the latest inventory revealed that there are only 1,395 ICU beds available.

“Sa ngayon, may more than 100,000 na po tayo na active case and normally two percent po noon ay severe at saka critical so we will be needing 2,000 beds for severe and critical (Right now, we have more than 100,000 active cases and normally about two percent are severe and critical [cases] so we will be needing 2,000 beds for severe and critical [cases]),” Galvez told Duterte.

“Ang current inventory po natin ay 1,395 ICU beds so

nangangailangan pa po tayo ng total na 605 ICU beds (We have 1,395 ICU beds in our current inventory so we need a total of 605 ICU beds),” he added.