

QC LGU urges Angel Locsin's pantry guests to get free COVID-19 testing

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The local government of Quezon City has called on those who went to actress Angel Locsin's community pantry to avail of its free coronavirus disease (COVID-19) swab testing fearing they might have caught the virus.

City Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance Unit (CESU) head Dr. Rolando Cruz said residents manifesting COVID-19 symptoms, such as flu and cough, after going to the event Friday which violated health protocols have to come forward for consultation.

"Hindi natin puwedeng isantabi ang posibilidad na nagkahawahan dahil sa dami ng dumalo. Mabuti nang makasiguro na hindi natin mahawahan ang ating pamilya at mga kasama sa komunidad (We can't discount the possibility that some got infected because of the huge number of people. It's better to be sure that we don't infect our families and neighbors)," Cruz said.

Affected residents may book an appointment online via <http://bit.ly/QCfreetest>. They may also call any of the following QC Contact Tracing Hotlines: 87032759, 8703-4398, 0916-122-8628, 0908-639-8086, 0931-095-7737.

CESU also appealed to Locsin and other organizers to coordinate and work closely with the city should they be aware of individuals who need to be tested immediately.

"Our office will remain open for support from Ms. Locsin and her camp, considering the effort and cost of doing testing and contact tracing of those who participated in the community pantry," Cruz said.

"We hope to be furnished with any pertinent information that could aid us in immediately identifying, testing and isolating suspected COVID 19 cases," he added.

Mayor Joy Belmonte expressed her gratitude to Locsin for her works in the city and appealed to help the local government identify potential cases.

Dr. Eric Tayag warned that community pantries could cause another uptick in coronavirus cases (COVID-19).

"Bagamat maganda ang hangarin ng isang community pantry, maaring maging isang dahilan to na dumami na naman yung mga kaso natin (Although a community pantry has good intentions, it may be a reason for our cases to increase again)," Tayag told DZMM on Sunday, April 25.

He appealed to elderly people and persons with comorbidity not to go out of their homes to line up in community pantries after a senior citizen died while queuing at a community pantry in Quezon City.

Community pantry organizers are also asked to limit the number of people within a period of time, Tayag said. (With a report from Gabriela Baron)