

Indigent QC residents get masks

City officials have expressed concern over the large number of health protocol violators from among the vulnerable sectors who were warned or fined

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The **Quezon City local government** has started the distribution of 1.2 million masks and 300,000 face shields to indigent residents in the city's 142 barangays.

Among those who will receive the masks and shields are vendors, TODA drivers and senior citizens.

City officials have expressed concern over the large number of health protocol violators from among the vulnerable sectors who were warned or fined.

The guidelines for arrest with detention of violators are being finalized by the Philippine National Police.

The QC government will be intensifying its campaign to warn or fine those who are seen not wearing masks or those wearing them improperly.

At present, seniors, children or minors, and those who temporarily lowered their masks to eat or drink receive warnings. Fines are imposed on other violators through Ordinance Violation Receipts that can be paid within a reasonable period of time.

City officials said they will exercise maximum tolerance and enforce local ordinances.

They want to avoid detaining violators due to the lack of space in detention facilities, and since the virus can easily spread in enclosed spaces.

"Only those who resist, defy or assault enforcers will be detained," an official explained. Based on data from the **Quezon City Police District**, 825 individuals were arrested from 6 May to 5 a.m. of 11 May for violating the city ordinance on the proper wearing of mask and face shield. Another 7,600 were warned, while 7,886 were fined.