

# QC designates child-friendly safe zones

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After the Inter-Agency Task Force allowed to go outside their homes children in areas under general community quarantine, the **Quezon City local government** has designated several open-air locations as child-friendly safe zones where minors five years old and above can engage in outdoor activities, non-contact sports and exercise.

In the memorandum signed by the Quezon City mayor, the Quezon Memorial Circle and Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife have been designated as among the parks that are child-friendly safe zones, alongside several city-owned parks managed by the **Quezon City Parks Development and Administration Department (PDAD)**, including pockets of green inside residential subdivisions.

Aside from the parks, the **Quezon City Business Permits Licensing Department (BPLD)** is studying the designation as safe zone outdoor activity areas, swimming pools, tourist sites, al fresco dining or other open-air areas in malls or commercial establishments.

The move to identify these zones was in accordance with the call of UNICEF Philippines to local governments to allow children to play and conduct sports and exercise in outdoor areas to promote their physical and mental well-being during the Covid-19 pandemic.

“After months of being confined inside their houses, we saw the need to give minors a chance to go out and get some fresh air in outdoor areas that are deemed safe,” the mayor said.

The memorandum states minors five years old and above may enter safe zones for noncontact activities, such as outdoor playtime, games, sports, exercise, outdoor swimming or other leisure activities and for al fresco dining. However, they are required to be accompanied by a fully-vaccinated adult guardian.

The guardian should be able to present the vaccination card and ID at any time upon request.

Groups that converge within safe zones may not exceed 10 persons.

To date, there are 19 identified safe zones, but representatives of other parks and other similar suitable outdoor areas may apply with the PDAD or BPLD to be declared as such.