

Quezon City confirms Delta variant case

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The **Quezon City local government** yesterday confirmed a case of the highly contagious Delta coronavirus variant.

The patient is a 34-year-old male returning overseas Filipino worker (OFW) from Saudi Arabia, a Quezon City resident, who arrived in the country on 24 June.

He stayed in a hotel in Makati for 10 days before transferring to another hotel in Manila where he stayed from 4 to 11 July.

The patient reported experiencing a slightly itchy throat on 28 June and was swabbed on 30 June.

He was initially considered recovered and was allowed to go home to his family on 11 July. On Sunday evening, the **QC City Epidemiological Surveillance Unit (CESU)** said they were informed the OFW's sequenced sample turned out to be positive with the Delta variant. This prompted CESU to immediately schedule yesterday another round of swab tests for the patient and his close family contacts.

He and his family have been under strict home quarantine since Sunday night.

“He will undergo another swab test, along with his family, as part of our protocol even if he is considered a recovered patient. We are doing extensive contact tracing on his close contacts just to make sure,” CESU head Dr. Rolly Cruz said.

The Quezon City mayor expressed confidence CESU and the entire city government are capable of handling the case.

Last 14 July, the QC government formed Task Force Delta Variant, which identified key areas to concentrate on, including revisiting the city's disease surveillance, active case finding, and contact tracing capacity; its testing capability, and the efficiency of its molecular laboratory in processing specimens; reviewing its isolation and quarantine protocols and the status and bed capacity of its HOPE facilities; and assessing equipment and manpower resources of hospitals handling moderate to severe cases.

Task Force Disiplina was also ordered to ramp up monitoring and inspection to ensure minimum health protocols are followed in all public places.

The city government, through CESU, is also closely coordinating with another local government regarding the possible local transmission of the Delta variant.

CESU learned a male who resides in another city but works in a factory in Quezon City contracted the Covid-19 variant. His pregnant wife also tested positive for Covid-19. The unit has been conducting contact tracing and swabbing at his place of work since Saturday.

“There are no reported cases yet at his place of work, but we are doing this as a preventive measure to make sure we contain any possible transmission this early,” Cruz said. Based on available information, the factory worker experienced shortness of breath, colds, fever and sore throat on 4 July and tested positive for the virus the day after. He was admitted to the Philippine General Hospital on 5 July and was discharged on 18 July.

His wife, who was asymptomatic, was tested on 8 July and turned out positive the next day. She tested positive again on 17 July.

They are staying at a quarantine facility in another city until the end of the month.