

Shelter in hot water over Covid-19 spread

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Daily Tribune (Philippines) · 10 Sep 2021 · A8 · BY PAULA ANTOLIN @tribunephil_phau

Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte warned officials of an orphanage of possible sanctions after 122 children and personnel tested positive for Covid-19 due to non-observance of health protocols amid a continuing surge of Covid-19 cases in the recent weeks.

Belmonte, on Thursday, chastised the administrators of Gentle Hands Orphanage at Barangay Bagumbuhay for endangering the lives of 99 children below 18-years-old over their failure to check on the health status of a visitor who turned out to be an asymptomatic virus carrier.

“We strongly warn that non-compliance or non-implementation of minimum public health protocols is a violation of RA 11332 (or the Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Health Concern Act),” Belmonte said.

“Our persons in authority must be strict in enforcing it so that we can prevent the spread of the virus,” she added.

“Such closed long-term care facilities must maintain strict protocols because even if only one case enters them, everyone can be easily infected,” City Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit Chief Dr. Rolando Cruz said.