

COVID-19 surge hits 3rd convent in QC

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An outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) hit the third convent in Quezon City, affecting 13 nuns.

The Stella Maris Convent in Cubao is the third convent to be hit by a surge in COVID-19 cases. The first two were the Religious of Virgin Mary Convent and the Convent of the Holy Spirit, both located in Quezon City.

Earlier, the city government also reported a COVID-19 outbreak at the Religious of the Virgin Mary convent in Barangay Kaunlaran, New Manila, Quezon City, affecting 114 nuns and staff.

Also, at least 22 nuns and staff at the Convent of the Holy Spirit in Barangay Immaculate Conception contracted COVID-19. The convent has 90 residents

Of the 22 positive cases, 13 are nuns and nine are staff, including the index case or the first documented case in the institution.

Fourteen infected individuals are fully vaccinated and the others have yet to receive their COVID-19 jabs.

Dr. Rolando Cruz, **Quezon City Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance Unit (CESU)** chief, said 46 individuals at Convent of the Holy Spirit were swabbed last Sept. 10 while the rest refused to be tested at that time.

Cruz said the index case is a physical therapist who was reportedly exposed to a nun who succumbed to the virus earlier this month.

Majority of the infected nuns are between 80 and 101 years old.

Doctors from St. Luke's Medical Center are monitoring the patients who are being attended to by caregivers.

In view of the COVID infections in the convents as well as orphanages in the city, **Mayor Joy Belmonte** ordered the close monitoring of all closed-setting and long-term care facilities.