

## 9 priests, 16 staff of QC seminary test positive for COVID-19

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At least nine priests and 16 staff of the Christ the King Mission Seminary in Quezon City have tested positive for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) with one of them succumbing to the disease.

The **Quezon City Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance Unit (CESU)** said the 25 priests and staff are among 59 individuals at the seminary.

As of Sept. 18, 11 of those who tested positive for COVID-19 have already recovered, while 13 remain active cases.

One of the infected priests, one of the seminary's first two recorded COVID-19 cases on Sept. 3, succumbed to the viral disease.

CESU chief Dr. Rolando Cruz said the seminary's Villa Cristo Rey and Fininman Building were already placed under Special Concern Lockdown (SCL) since Sept. 18.

The seminary is the fourth religious facility in Quezon City placed under lockdown.

Earlier locked down due to COVID-19 outbreak were Stella Maris Convent (since Sept. 10), Religious of the Virgin Mary (Sept. 14), and Convent of the Holy Spirit (Sept. 15).

Food packs and hygiene kits were provided by the city government to the affected religious institutions.

### Lung Center COVID situation

At the Lung Center of the Philippines (LCP), at least 36 of their health workers are still suffering from the viral disease.

"Sa ngayon ang active cases namin 36. Isa na ho ito sa pinakamadami sa history ng Lung Center since last year. Pero 405 na po ang naka-recover dito. Ang total namin 442. (As of now, we have 36 active cases, the most in the history of the Lung Center since last year. We already have 442 cases, with 405 already recovered.). This is actually a good batting average compared to other healthcare hospitals," LCP spokesman Dr. Norberto Francisco said in a DZMM Teleradyo interview Tuesday, Sept. 21.

LCP is a referral facility for severe and critical COVID-19 patients.

"Ngayon, hirap po kami kasi talagang kulang at kulang ang manpower (We are now struggling because we really lack manpower). We want to expand our services and we have been. Isa ito sa pinakamataas naming dine-dedicate ang ospital sa COVID beds (We have allotted the most beds to COVID cases)," Francisco said.

Francisco said 84 percent of its hospital beds are dedicated to COVID patients.

"Ang isa pa sa pumipigil yung healthcare personnel namin, limitado po. Masalimuot ang COVID, maalagain ang mga pasyente (One of the factors that restricts us is the limited healthcare personnel. COVID is complex, patients need special care)," he added.

He said the hospital is already full and that the waiting time to move from the emergency room to a COVID ward can sometimes takes up to five days.

"Minsan kapag puno ay sila ay nasa emergency room, napipilitan

po tayo na alagaan sila kahit sila ay naka wheelchair lang (Sometimes when they are in the emergency room, we are forced to take care of them even if they are in a wheelchair),” Francisco told DZMM.

“The reliable indicator, one of the sensitive indicator of the operational capacity of the hospital, yun pila sa emergency room. Kasi kung bakante sa ospital kahit padating ng padating sa emergency room naigagawa namin ng paraan in 24 hours naiaakyat namin yan (is the queue of patients in the emergency room. Because if there is a vacancy in the hospital, even if patients come, we can accommodate them in 24 hours),” he stressed.

Cebu City improves Meanwhile, vaccine czar Carlito Galvez Jr. recognized the COVID-19 response of Cebu City after private hospitals recorded no admission in their intensive care units (ICU) and emergency rooms (ER) in recent weeks.

During the weekly “Talk to the People” public address of President Duterte Monday night, Sept. 20, Galvez said the combined daily COVID-19 admission in all private hospitals in Cebu City continued to decline while the daily number of recovered patients discharged exceeded the admissions.

Citing the data submitted by 16 private hospitals in Cebu City, Galvez said there were no patients waiting for admission in the ICU and ER “in the past weeks.”

However, there are 13 regular COVID-19 patients that remain in the ER of the private hospitals in Cebu City.

He said the combined Capacity Utilization Rate (CUR) of all private hospitals in Cebu City was at 40.1 percent as of Sept. 18. Out of the total 831 beds allocated for COVID-19 patients, 333 beds are currently being utilized while 498 beds are still available. (With reports from Jaleen Ramos and Martin A. Sadongdong)