

## QC clamps down on mass gatherings

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The **Quezon City government** has moved to limit mass gatherings associated with religious celebrations like town fiestas to minimize the spread of Covid-19 amid a surge of cases being seen in Metro Manila.

It said that while people look forward to such festivities like the Chinese New Year, government has no choice but to rein in such activities that could become super-spreader events.

The prohibitions against processions, parades, Santacruzans, among others, were contained in Memorandum 02-22 issued by **Mayor Joy Belmonte**.

Also banned are fairs, the holding of variety shows, fireworks displays and public performances.

“Public games and contests, such as pageants, singing or band contests, bingo, pabitin, paluan ng palayok, agawan, or tug of war are also prohibited,” the memorandum said.

Sporting tournaments, group contact sports such as basketball, public buffets and boodle fights were also banned.

Also prohibited are public drinking and other celebratory activities that violate social distancing and result in people comingling.

But the memorandum allows modest celebrations limited to persons that are fully vaccinated and held under strict adherence to health protocols, especially social distancing.

The holding of dragon and lion dances will be allowed to celebrate the Chinese New Year, but the performers shall be limited to a designated area cordoned off from the public. The participants must, likewise, be fully vaccinated.