

QC bans mass gatherings on Chinese New Year, fiestas

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The **Quezon City government** has prohibited mass gathering activities during religious festivals and community celebrations while under Alert Level 3 or higher.



Mayor Joy Belmonte issued a memorandum prohibiting activities such as parades and processions in the upcoming Chinese New Year and, if the current alert level is extended or escalated, during fiestas in the coming months. Among those prohibited include processions and parades, including Santacruzán; public celebrations such as fairs, variety shows, fireworks displays and other forms of public performances; tournaments and other group contact sports activities; public buffets and boodle fights, and drinking in public places.

Also prohibited were group videoke sessions and other celebratory gatherings that violate social distancing; noise pollution due to excessive merrymaking, and comingling of multiple households through large parties and “open-door” fiesta celebrations.

The policy allows the conduct of modest celebrations conducted within homes among the immediate household; masses and other religious solemnities including blessings of buildings and establishments, and celebrations conducted primarily for an online audience.

“The conduct of a Dragon Dance or Lion Dance to observe and celebrate the forthcoming Chinese New Year shall be allowed provided that the same shall be held in one designated area only, cordoned off from the general public,” read the guidelines.

Belmonte said all participants of activities that occur outside the home should be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

The memorandum also reminded religious institutions of existing health protocols on the conduct of physical activities, including the vaccination requirement and the venue capacity.

The mayor directed the city’s law and order cluster, regulatory departments, barangays and the **Quezon City Police District** to strictly enforce the latest guidelines.