

QC devises early warning system for COVID monitoring

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The **Quezon City government** will implement an early warning system to prevent another surge of COVID-19 cases in the city.

“As our doctors would say, prevention is better than cure. At this point, there’s too much at stake to let all our efforts go to waste. We cannot afford to go back to zero,” Mayor Joy Belmonte said yesterday.

Developed by the **city Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance Unit (CESU)**, the warning system involves systematic monitoring of new COVID cases, analysis of trends and recommendation of strategic measures to prevent another outbreak of the viral illness.

It includes four indicators: the growth rate or the change in the number of cases from the previous to the current week; the seven-day average daily attack rate or the number of daily new cases per 100,000 people; the daily positivity rate with seven-day moving average, and the reproduction number.

CESU chief Rolly Cruz said the warning system uses three colors – white, yellow and red – to classify the status of COVID infections in the city.

Cruz said the white status would be raised when COVID-19 cases are below average and data indicators are considered stable. No surge of cases is expected in the next 14 days.

The yellow status is raised when COVID cases are seen rising compared to the previous week and when three of the four indicators have increased from normal to above normal. Under this category, there is a possibility of a surge within the next 14 days.

A red status is declared when COVID cases continue to rise and all other indicators remain high or have breached the indicated threshold. This indicates the start of a surge.

When the city government raises yellow or red status, communities are expected to be on high alert and to strictly follow minimum public health protocols.

Cruz said Quezon City remains under white status, but is ready for a possible surge in new COVID-19 cases.