14-day lockdown begins in parts of QC

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Several areas in Quezon City have been placed under a 14-day "special concern lockdown" starting yesterday amid the clustering of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases.

Placed under lockdown are Sitio Militar in Barangay Bahay Toro; Vargas Compound, Adelfa Metro Heights, Abanay and Ancop Canada in Barangay Culiat, and Lower Gulod in Barangay Sauyo.

Other areas under lockdown are 318 Dakila street, 2nd Alley Kalayaan B and Masbate street in Barangay Batasan Hills as well as Victory Avenue, ROTC Hunters, BMA Avenue and Agno street in Barangay Tatalon.

According to the city government, only authorized persons and frontliners with valid identification cards would be allowed to leave their homes.

City hall would provide relief goods to the affected families.

Mayor Joy Belmonte earlier appealed to the residents to cooperate.

Assistant city administrator for operations Alberto Kimpo said the areas were determined based on the results of the community-based testing conducted by the local health department.

"Instead of placing the entire barangays under lockdown, we will focus on particular areas where there are clustering of COVID-19 cases," Kimpo said. "We are also looking at areas with large population that have not been practicing quarantine protocols."

Rolly Cruz, head of the city epidemiology and surveillance unit, said areas with two or more households having positive COVID-19 cases might be placed under lockdown.

Cruz said they would conduct extensive testing to ensure that the residents are free from the virus after the 14-day period.

As of Tuesday night, the Department of Health recorded 1,597 cases of COVID-19 in Quezon City. Of the number, 140 died and 385 recovered from the disease.