



Republic of the Philippines
Quezon City
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 19
Series of 2020

EMERGENCY MEASURES AGAINST COVID-19

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2020, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte issued Proclamation No. 922, entitled "*Declaring a State of Public Health Emergency Throughout the Philippines*" due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak.

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Disease adopted Resolution No. 11, Series of 2020. This Resolution, as approved by the President on the same day, imposed wide-ranging emergency health measures, including community quarantine on the entire Metro Manila, prohibition of mass gatherings, and imposition of stringent social distancing;

WHEREAS, Department of Health (DOH) Department Memorandum No. 2020-0090, *Interim Guidelines on Home Quarantine*; and Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Memorandum Circular No. 2020-18, *Guides to Action Against Coronavirus*, provide detailed regulations on the steps that must be taken to combat COVID-19;

WHEREAS, based on Sec. 53.2.1 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9271, the "Quarantine Act of 2004", violators of quarantine regulations may be criminally penalized;

WHEREAS, Sec. 6(e) of Republic Act No. 11332, "The Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Health Concern Act," provides that local governments have the authority to conduct and enforce disease surveillance and response systems, epidemic/outbreak and epidemiologic investigations, and rapid containment, quarantine and isolation, disease prevention and control measures;

WHEREAS, Sec. 9 of Republic Act No. 11332 prohibits, under pain of criminal penalty, (i) non-cooperation of persons and entities that should report and/or respond to notifiable diseases or health events of public concern; and (ii) non-cooperation of the person or entities identified as having the notifiable disease, or affected by the health event of public concern;

WHEREAS, Sec. 6 of Republic Act No. 7581 as amended, or the "Price Act," imposes automatic price freeze on basic necessities and essential medicines in an area declared under a state of emergency;

WHEREAS, Sec. 5 of the Price Act criminally penalizes hoarding and profiteering, especially in times of emergency;

020-162-1

WHEREAS, based on Sec. 16 of the Local Government Code, every local government unit, including the barangay, has the implied power to do all things necessary, appropriate, or incidental to govern efficiently and effectively, promote general welfare, promote health and safety, maintain peace and order, and preserve the comfort and convenience of their inhabitants.

WHEREAS, under Sec. 478 (4) (iii) of the Local Government Code, the City may, through its health officer, execute and enforce all laws, ordinances and regulations relating to public health;

WHEREAS, on 13 March 2020, the City Council declared Quezon City to be under a state of calamity;

WHEREAS, under Sec. 455(b)(1)(vii) of the Local Government Code, the Mayor may carry out such emergency measures as may be necessary during times of calamity;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MA. JOSEFINA G. BELMONTE, Mayor of Quezon City, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do order:

I. PROHIBITION ON MASS GATHERINGS; STRINGENT SOCIAL DISTANCING

1. **Mass Gatherings.** All mass gatherings are hereby prohibited. "Mass gatherings" are planned or spontaneous events where the number of people attending could strain the planning and response resources of the community hosting the event. Such gatherings may include, without limitation, concerts, sporting events, movie screenings and other large-scale entertainment activities, community assemblies, parades, conferences and other gatherings not related to essential work. Law enforcement and barangay officials shall have the authority to take control of any mass gathering, queue or crowd and disperse the same, or enforce social distancing as appropriate. This prohibition shall remain until lifted by the President or other appropriate authority.

For the sake of social cohesion and spiritual morale, limited religious services, weddings, baptisms, small faith-based or family celebrations, and the like may continue, provided that stringent social distancing measures must be implemented as described below.

On a case by case basis, the City may allow gatherings for compelling reasons related to public welfare, provided that in any case stringent social distancing shall be observed.

2. **Social Distancing.** All persons shall, to the extent feasible, maintain a one-meter distance from one another in the course of their public interactions. Crowding shall be strictly prohibited in all public places, and public transportation, elevators, escalators, walkways, queues and other transit points.
3. **Public Transport.** Public transportation vehicles may be loaded only to normal capacity, subject to rules or guidelines that the Department of Transportation or other appropriate authority may issue. Law



enforcement and barangay officials may flag down any overcrowded public transport vehicle and require disembarkation of passengers until normal capacity is restored.

4. **Class Suspension; No Loitering of Minors.** Classes in all levels shall remain suspended until such suspension is lifted by the President or other appropriate authority. For the period of this suspension, a minor unaccompanied by a parent or guardian shall not be allowed in malls and similar establishments, and shall not be allowed to loiter in any public place. Law enforcement or barangay officials that encounter minors violating the foregoing shall immediately send them home.
5. **Mandatory Disinfection of Public Places.** All establishments and structures frequented by the public must observe thorough and regular disinfection. In particular, items or objects usually touched by the public must be regularly disinfected, such as, but not limited to, door handles, elevator buttons, railings, ATM keypads, tables and chairs, etc.
6. **Curfew.** The City may impose curfew hours at any time. During curfew, only the following persons may be allowed in public places: (i) health workers, (ii) authorized government officials, (iii) those traveling for medical or humanitarian reasons, (iv) persons transiting to airport for travel abroad, (5) persons providing basic services and public utilities, (6) persons on nightshift traveling to work. The authorities may require any person found at large during curfew to present the appropriate proof of their activities (official ID, plane ticket, etc.).

II. COMMUNITY QUARANTINE

1. **Metro Manila Entry Points.** The Quezon City Police District (QCPD), the Department of Public Order and Safety, and the Transport and Traffic Management Task Force shall augment the efforts of the national government to secure the entry points to Metro Manila, particularly the entry points from the Provinces of Bulacan and Rizal.
2. **Barangays Next to Provincial Borders.** Barangay officials of the barangays that border Bulacan and Rizal shall cooperate with national government and the above-mentioned agencies and offices in the enforcement of quarantine.
3. **Enhanced Community Quarantine.** At any time when necessary, the Mayor may declare any part of the City under enhanced community quarantine. This includes, without limitation, any or all of the following measures:
 - (i) Strict home quarantine shall be implemented in all households;
 - (ii) All work, and all public or private transportation shall be suspended;
 - (iii) The City government or other appropriate authorities shall take over provision of food and essential supplies.



III. HOME-BASED QUARANTINE MEASURES FOR INDIVIDUAL CASES

1. **Definitions.** PUI - A person under investigation by a medical doctor as a suspected COVID-19 case, due to the person's symptoms; and because of history of exposure to a confirmed COVID-19 case, and/or return from countries with local transmission in the last 14 days.

PUM - A person under monitoring due to his or her exposure to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case, or who has returned from travel to a country seriously affected by COVID-19 in the last 14 days such as China, Iran and Italy, and other countries as the City Health Department may advise from time to time, provided that the person has no respiratory symptoms (fever, cough, colds, sore throat, etc). PUMs include all persons in the same close environment (household, condo unit, etc.) of a confirmed case within the past 14-day period.

2. **Quarantine Period.** A PUM must stay quarantined at home for 14 days. The quarantine will start on the last day of exposure to a PUI (suspected case) or confirmed case, or on the day of return from a COVID-19 affected country. On the other hand, the PUI (suspected case) shall be required to immediately report to a hospital or clinic for medical care and testing.
3. **Exception.** While under quarantine, a PUM may leave home only for the purposes of seeking medical attention or for emergency medical care. When extremely necessary, the PUM may be allowed to go to a nearby store for purposes of purchasing essential supplies. While outside the home, the PUM must wear a facemask and observe stringent social distancing. The BHERT should escort or monitor the PUM to ensure that he or she returns immediately to the home after procuring the necessary supplies.
4. **BHERT.** Each barangay must have a Barangay Health Emergency Response Team (BHERT) composed of an executive officer, one or more barangay *tanods*, and at least two barangay health workers (at least one should be a nurse or a midwife). If the barangay does not yet have a BHERT, the punong barangay must appoint its members immediately. The City Health Department shall train BHERTs on correct use of personal protective equipment (PPE).
5. **City Health Point Person.** The City Health Department shall designate a point person for each barangay. It is responsibility of the BHERT members to know the emergency contact information of their barangay's City Health Department point person.
6. **Surveillance.** The punong barangay shall assign BHERT members to conduct surveillance and monitoring outside the homes of PUMs under quarantine to ensure compliance until the end of the quarantine period. The BHERT shall also be responsible for ensuring that a PUI immediately reports to the appropriate hospital or clinic for medical care and testing. The punong barangay or the BHERT executive officer may deputize additional community members when more manpower is necessary.

7. **Non-Interaction.** The BHERT should not allow anyone outside of the household of the quarantined person to enter during the quarantine period, except for health workers or emergency responders. BHERT members, and community members in general, should not interact or approach anyone in the household on quarantine. Likewise, the BHERT should ensure that no quarantined individual shall leave the house except in conditions mentioned in IL3 above.
8. **Non-Compliance.** In case a quarantined person attempts to leave the home, BHERT members should call the attention of the person and attempt to convince him to return via moral pressure and verbal persuasion. In doing this, BHERT members should maintain a distance of at least one meter from the person.
9. **Continued Refusal to Comply.** If the quarantined person refuses to return inside the house, BHERT members with PPE and appropriate training may physically restrain and return the person to quarantine. Barangay personnel without proper PPE or training should not attempt to physically restrain the person or otherwise make physical contact with him, though they should continue to maintain surveillance. In any case, BHERT members must immediately inform the City Health Department point person.
10. **Police Assistance.** The City Health Department point person or BHERT may summon the assistance of police and other law enforcement officials to physical restrain and enforce quarantine on the non-compliant PUM. In such a case, the City Health point person will advise on and supervise the disinfection and sanitation measures of the law enforcement officials that carried out the quarantine.
11. **Data Privacy.** All concerned offices and agencies shall ensure that: (i) all private information regarding PUMs and PUIs, including their identities and other private data, is disclosed only to the persons directly involved in maintaining quarantine or enforcing health measures on such persons; (ii) all disclosed information is anonymized to the greatest extent possible, and only such information that is absolutely necessary to protecting the public or ensuring the effectiveness of quarantine or other health measures shall be disclosed. In any case, use of the private information of affected individuals shall be subject to applicable requirements of the Data Privacy Act.

IV. PRICE FREEZE; SUPPLY CONCERNS

1. **Basic Necessities.** The City shall monitor and enforce the price freeze mandated under the Price Act on all basic necessities and essential medicines, until such freeze is lifted by the President or other appropriate authority. "Basic necessities and essential medicines" include, without limitation, rice, corn, root crops, bread; fresh, dried or canned fish and other marine products; fresh pork, beef and poultry meat; fresh eggs; potable water in bottles and containers; fresh and processed milk; fresh vegetables and fruits; locally manufactured instant



noodles; coffee; sugar; cooking oil; salt; laundry soap and detergents; firewood; charcoal; household liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and kerosene; candles; drugs and other items which may be later classified as essential by the Department of Health, and any other commodities included under this category by the appropriate authority.¹

2. **Enforcement.** The Punong Barangay shall designate a Barangay Focal Person to enforce the price freeze in sari-sari stores and other barangay-based micro-business establishments. The Market Development and Administration Department (MDAD) shall enforce the same with respect to public and private markets. On the other hand, the Business Permits and Licensing Department (BPLD) shall enforce the same with respect to groceries, supermarkets and pharmacies. If the Barangay Focal Person discovers violations in public/private markets or groceries/supermarkets/pharmacies, he shall report the same to the MDAD or BPLD, as the case may be.

3. **Signage.** MDAD and BPLD shall require establishments under their jurisdiction to prominently post signs substantially worded (in English or Filipino) as follows:

- "Hoarding Is Illegal"
- "Grossly Overpricing Basic Necessities is Illegal"

The signs shall also include wording encouraging citizens to report violators to the respective offices, including the contact details of the appropriate point persons. The Local Price Coordinating Council may modify the above signs and require posting of other signs.

4. **Limitations on Sale.** All establishments selling basic necessities and essential medicines shall impose reasonable limitations on the number of items that each person may buy. The City may impose more detailed limitations and guidelines in separate issuances.

5. **Remedies.** If an establishment violates the above regulations, the Punong Barangay, MDAD or BPLD, as the case may be, may recommend to the City Mayor any applicable remedy under the law including but not limited to: (i) warning; (ii) temporary or permanent closure of the offending establishment; (iii) referral to the City Legal Department for filing of the appropriate criminal, civil or administrative complaint under the Price Act or other applicable laws. The foregoing shall be subject to any guidelines that the Local Price Coordinating Council may issue from time to time.

6. **Water.** The Bureau of Fire Protection - QC (BFP-QC) shall provide any possible assistance to ensure that the barangays have water for purposes of hand washing and basic hygiene.

V. **SUPERVISION OF DISTRICTS/BARANGAYS.** The existing district and barangay coordination mechanisms, including task forces, committees or technical groups formed for road clearing, environmental protection, solid waste management, and other purposes, may be assigned to supervise compliance with this Order.

¹ Sec. 3(1) of RA 7581, the Price Act, as amended by RA 10623.



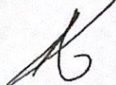
VI. DURATION. This Executive Order shall remain effective until such time that the President or other appropriate authority lifts the state of public health emergency. If any subsequent law, regulation, guideline or issuance affects any portion of this Order, such portion shall be deemed amended accordingly.

VII. FUNDING. Funding requirements shall be drawn from the Quick Response Fund of the City and barangays, the Office of the Mayor, and other funds available from the barangays and relevant City departments or offices as may be later identified.

VIII. DISSEMINATION. A copy of this Executive Order shall be furnished to the Office of the President and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) for information and guidance pursuant to Section 455(1)(xii) of RA 7160, as amended, and shall be posted at the official website of the Quezon City Government.

IX. EFFECTIVITY. This Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE, 13 March 2020, Quezon City.


MA. JOSEFINA G. BELMONTE
City Mayor