



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 30
Series of 2020

REQUIRING PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY (PDL) TO UNDERGO COVID-19 TESTING BEFORE ADMISSION TO THE QUEZON CITY JAIL AND UNDER OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Quezon City Council, in a special session, adopted Resolution No. 8141, S-2020, which declared Quezon City under a state of calamity due to the pandemic caused by COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, to combat the pandemic, the President declared an Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) over the entire Luzon;

WHEREAS, the number of reported COVID-19 cases within Quezon City continues to rise, including cases within the Quezon City Jail;

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, based on Sec. 16 of the Local Government Code, the City 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. 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:

1. **COVID-19 Testing for Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL).** To prevent the spread of COVID-19, PDLs shall be tested for this disease prior to commitment to the Quezon City Jail (QCJ), and under certain conditions, prior to release into the community, and upon admission into detention facilities of police stations or police precincts.
2. **Testing Prior to Commitment of PDL to QCJ.** The following guidelines shall be observed when an order is issued by the proper court for the commitment of a PDL to the QCJ:

- a. After a court orders the commitment of a PDL into the QCJ, the BJMP shall coordinate with the Quezon City Health Department (City Health) to arrange for COVID-19 testing of the PDL in a separate quarantine facility.
 - b. The PDL shall remain in the quarantine facility while waiting for the COVID-19 test result. If the result is negative, only then shall BJMP transfer PDL to QCJ.
 - c. If the PDL is found positive for COVID-19, the PDL shall remain isolated in the quarantine facility for treatment, or he may be transferred to a hospital or other facility as may be advised by City Health. The BJMP shall transfer the PDL to QCJ only after City Health determines that the PDL is cleared of infection.
3. **Conditional Testing for PDLs Released from the Quezon City Jail (QCJ).** The following guidelines shall be observed when an order is issued by the proper court for the release of a PDL from the QCJ:
- a. Prior to the release of the PDL from QCJ, the PDL must undergo a medical exam to be conducted by or in coordination with the City Health, to determine whether COVID-19 testing is appropriate.
 - b. If the medical exam shows that a COVID-19 test is not appropriate under the circumstances, BJMP may release the PDL to the community. However, BJMP shall notify City Health of the PDL's home address and contact information in case of any follow up investigation or contact tracing.
 - c. If the medical exam shows the necessity of a test, the PDL's release shall be processed as normal, provided that instead of releasing the PDL to the community, BJMP shall turn over the PDL to the custody of City Health. City Health shall conduct the test. Pending the test result, City Health shall determine whether to place the concerned person in a quarantine facility or under strict home quarantine. In case of a positive test, City Health shall arrange for the concerned person's quarantine and treatment. If the test is negative, City Health shall allow the concerned person to return to the community.
 - d. If the medical exam shows the necessity of a test, but the PDL is a non-resident of Quezon City, the PDL's release shall be processed as normal, provided that BJMP and City Health shall coordinate with the LGU where the PDL resides for the quarantine and testing of the released person by and in the concerned LGU.
4. **Conditional Testing of PDLs in Detention Facilities.** The following guidelines shall be observed after a person is detained in a police precinct or police station:
- a. As soon as feasible after arrest of the PDL, he shall undergo a medical exam. If the medical exam shows that the PDL should undergo COVID-19 testing, the Quezon City Police Department (QCPD) shall notify the City Health accordingly, and City Health shall perform the test. While the PDL is waiting for the COVID-19 test result, the PDL shall be isolated from other PDLs to the extent feasible.
 - b. If the PDL is found positive for COVID-19, the PDL shall be placed in a quarantine facility designated by the QCPD and City Health for isolation and

treatment, or as may otherwise be advised by City Health. The QCPD shall transfer the PDL to a regular detention facility only after City Health determines that the PDL is cleared of infection.

c. If after quarantine of a COVID-19 positive PDL, the PDL is ordered released due to the dismissal of the case or other lawful reasons, the PDL's release shall be processed as normal, provided that instead of releasing the PDL to the community, the QCPD shall turn over the released person to the custody of City Health. City Health may continue quarantine of the released person in a quarantine facility, or transfer the person to strict home quarantine, or conduct other appropriate health measure.

d. Prior to release from a detention facility, the PDL shall also be subjected to a precautionary medical exam. If the medical exam shows that the PDL should be tested for COVID-19, the PDL's release shall be processed as normal, provided that instead of releasing the concerned person to the community, the QCPD shall turn over the concerned person to the custody of the City Health. City Health shall conduct the test, and may place the concerned person in a quarantine facility or under strict home quarantine, or conduct other appropriate health measures.

e. If the PDL to be released is a non-resident of QC, but a medical exam indicates that the PDL should be tested for COVID-19, the PDL's release shall be processed as normal. However, QCPD and City Health shall coordinate with the LGU where the PDL resides for the quarantine and testing of the released person by and in the concerned LGU.

5. **Regular Health Monitoring of PDLs.** The BJMP and QCPD are enjoined to conduct regular health monitoring of PDLs in their custody. If any PDL exhibits COVID-19 like symptoms such as fever, shortness of breath, body aches and/or dry cough, the BJMP or the QCPD, as the case may be, shall notify and coordinate with City Health to ensure testing, detection and isolation of any suspect cases at the earliest possible stage.

6. **Duration.** This Order shall remain in effect until the City Mayor, upon recommendation of City Health, determines that the foregoing emergency health measures may be lifted.

7. **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.

8. **Effectivity.** This Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE, 30 April 2020, Quezon City.


MA. JOSEFINA G. BELMONTE
City Mayor