



## MEMORANDUM

**FOR :** All Quezon City Barangays  
All Departments, Offices, and Task Forces of the Quezon City  
Government  
The Quezon City Police District  
The General Public

**SUBJECT :** Strict Enforcement of Health Protocols During Fiestas, Religious  
Festivals and Services, Chinese New Year and other Community  
Celebrations

**DATE :** January 13, 2021

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## BACKGROUND

In the coming months, many Quezon City barangays traditionally celebrate fiestas and other religious festivals. Unless regulated, these celebrations could lead to mass gatherings and encourage the spread of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

In this regard, Republic Act No. 11332 (the Notifiable Diseases Act); Ordinance No. SP-2985, S-2020 (Special Protection of Children Against COVID-19); Ordinance No. SP-2936, S-2020 (Requiring the Use of Face Masks); Ordinance No. SP-2934, S-2020 (Localized Community Quarantine); Ordinance No. SP-2350, S-2014 (Environmental Protection Code, specifically Chapter VII on Noise Nuisance); City Ordinance No. SP-85 S-1989 (Prohibiting Public Drinking) and other relevant laws empower the Quezon City government to enforce the appropriate disease prevention and control measures, including the Guidelines provided below.

## GUIDELINES

- 1. Prohibited Acts.** The following acts are prohibited during barangay fiestas, religious festivals and services, the Chinese New Year or other community celebrations:
  - a. Processions, parades, *Santacruzán*, and the like;
  - b. Public celebrations involving mass gatherings, including but not limited to fairs, *perya*, variety shows, fireworks displays, *ati-atihan* or other public performances;
  - c. Public games and contests, such as pageants, singing or band contests, bingo, *pabitin*, *paluan ng palayok*, *agawan*, or tug of war;
  - d. Tournaments, *liga*, or group contact sports such as basketball;
  - e. Public buffets, *boodle fights*, and the like;

- f. Public drinking, including drinking outdoors or on sidewalks, etc.; persons may only drink at home or inside restaurants or establishments, subject to health protocols;
- g. Group videoke or other celebratory gatherings that violate social distancing;
- h. Noise pollution or other noise nuisances due to excessive merrymaking;
- i. Commingling of multiple households through large parties or traditional “open door” fiesta celebrations; and
- j. any other non-essential or non-work gathering that may be prohibited under applicable regulations.

**2. Exceptions.** Notwithstanding the foregoing, during the above-mentioned occasions, the following activities shall be allowed, subject to social distancing and other applicable health protocols:

- a. Modest celebrations conducted within the home, among immediate family or close acquaintances;
- b. Masses and other religious solemnities;
- c. Religious or traditional rituals for purposes of blessing buildings or establishments, such house blessings, office or store blessings. The establishment should use marshals to ensure at least 1 meter distance between any persons physically attending the blessing. Also, ministers should refrain from going from unit to unit, but should limit their activities to a specific location within the establishment;
- d. Celebrations conducted primarily for an online audience, with very limited physical attendance;
- e. The conduct of Dragon Dance or Lion Dance activities 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; and
- f. Other forms of limited celebration that may be exempted by the Business Permits and Licensing Department for justifiable reasons.

**3. Guidance on Religious Solemnities.** Religious institutions are respectfully reminded of the following health protocols:

- a. **Age Requirement.** Persons below 18 years or older than 65 years old may not physically attend Mass or other religious solemnities, in accordance with current regulations. Nonetheless, churches and religious institutions are encouraged to provide means for such persons to attend religious services online.
- b. **Health Protocols.** Strictly observe health protocols for all persons during the religious solemnity including wearing of face masks, maintaining social distance, and observing proper hand sanitation. Take every reasonable effort to avoid contamination of the communion host or other materials that may be distributed among the attendees.

c. **Venue Capacity.** If the number of the faithful exceeds the allowed 30% capacity of the venue's interior, the venue may allow the faithful to attend in adjacent areas, such as in patios or courtyards. The venue should use marshals to ensure maintenance of distancing among the attendees.

d. **Vendors.** Religious institutions may allow vendors registered at the Market Development and Administration Department (MDAD) in the vicinity of venues to attend to the needs of the faithful. The vendors should maintain at least 2 meters' distance between stalls and 1 meter distance among persons in a queue. Vendors must wear face masks and face shields and comply with all applicable health protocols. The venue should use marshals to maintain distancing and protect the solemnity of the occasion.

e. **Entrances and Exits.** Provide separate entrance and exit doors particularly in venues with successive Mass or service schedules; impose a no mask, no entry policy; provide sets of foot-wash at the designated entrances of the church; place temperature scanners at entrances; install alcohol dispensers at entrance and exit doors as well as in other strategic areas within the venue.

f. **Group Singing.** Individual singing shall be allowed during religious services, but choir groups should be avoided. As an exception, choirs whose members are from the same household, such as family choirs, may be allowed. Disinfect microphones used after every service.

g. **Movement.** Lessen movement within the venue. Collection baskets should be placed at designated areas where people can leave their offerings. Additional ministers should be used to avoid long queues for communion or other religious services.

h. **No Loitering.** After service, attendees should be encouraged to go straight home, and should not loiter around or stay longer than necessary in the venue.

i. **Disinfection.** Ministers and their assistants should avoid sharing the use of equipment such as microphones, and avoid touching the same paraphernalia. Equipment and paraphernalia must be regularly disinfected before and after use.

4. **Enforcement.** The member offices of the City's Law and Order Cluster, regulatory departments, the Barangays, and the QCPD shall enforce the protocols contained in these Guidelines, consistent with the Memorandum from the Mayor on Warrantless Arrests dated 13 July 2020, including the use of Ordinance Violation Receipts (OVR).

Violators may be penalized under the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 11332 (the Notifiable Diseases Act); Ordinance No. SP-2985, S-2020 (Special Protection of Children Against COVID-19); Ordinance No. SP-2936, S-2020 (Requiring the Use of Face Masks); Ordinance No. SP-2934, S-2020 (Localized Community Quarantine); Ordinance No. SP-2350, S-2014 (Environmental Protection Code, specifically Chapter VII on Noise

Nuisance); City Ordinance No. SP-85 S-1989 (Prohibiting Public Drinking) and other relevant laws.

**5. Further Regulations.** These Guidelines shall be subject to further regulations from the IATF or other relevant laws or regulations. Guidelines issued by religious governing bodies, such as the Diocese of Cubao or the Diocese of Novaliches, may be suppletorily applied when appropriate, in respect of the venues under their jurisdiction.

**6. Effectivity.** These Guidelines shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force until lifted by the City Mayor on the recommendation of the City Health Department.



**MA. JOSEFINA G. BELMONTE**  
City Mayor