



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 15
Series of 2021

ESTABLISHING TASK FORCE DELTA VARIANT

WHEREAS, on 12 March 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus as a pandemic;

WHEREAS, on 13 March 2020, the *Sangguniang Panlungsod* adopted Resolution No. SP-8141, series of 2020, declaring a state of calamity in Quezon City due to the pandemic;

WHEREAS, starting on 17 March 2020, the national government imposed community quarantine over Luzon, and eventually over virtually the entire Philippines;

WHEREAS, in June 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) identified a new variant of COVID-19 ("**Delta Variant**") which is significantly more contagious and resistant to antiviral drug, and has been linked to new COVID-19 surges in India, Europe, Israel and the United states;

WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing developments, the Quezon City Government should organize a task force to face this imminent threat;

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 prevention and control measures;

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

1. **COMPOSITION.** Task Force Delta Variant is hereby established, with the following members. Offices named as members shall have their head as their representative on the Task Force, provided that the head may designate an alternate.

Chairperson: City Mayor

Co-Chairperson: City Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit

Members: Co-Chairperson, Vax to Normal Task Force
City Health Department
Quezon City General Hospital (QCGH)
Rosario Maclang Bautista General Hospital (RMBGH)

Novaliches District Hospital (NDH)
Secretary to the Mayor
Chief of Staff, Office of the City Mayor
Office of the City Administrator
Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office
Barangay and Community Relations Department
Public Affairs and Information Services Department

Each member of the Task Force may, from time to time, designate or replace its representative on the Task Force. The Task Force may also request the necessary cooperation and assistance from any other office or department of the City Government, any Barangay, and any national government office based in Quezon City.

2. **FUNCTIONS.** The Task Force shall perform the following responsibilities:

2.1. **Enhanced Contact Tracing.** The Task Force shall augment contact tracing efforts to mitigate and contain the spread of the Delta Variant and any other COVID-19 variants, including increasing the contact tracing workforce in so far as feasible. In this regard, the Task Force shall ensure strict implementation of Kyusi Pass digital contact tracing to the extent practicable.

2.2. **Testing.** The Task Force shall develop and augment the COVID-19 testing capacity of the Quezon City Molecular Biology Laboratory and other testing facilities, and enhance cooperation between testing facilities and hospitals to enable expeditious handling of cases.

2.3. **Equipment.** The Task Force shall endeavor to acquire additional medical supplies to prepare for any viral surge, including diagnostic equipment, antiviral drugs, oxygen tanks, high-flow machines, respirators and the like.

2.4. **Monitoring of Medical Capacity.** The Task Force shall monitor medical capacity in all public and private hospitals, particularly intensive care unit (ICU) capacity, to anticipate any viral surge and to allocate medical resources where most needed. In particular, the City hospitals, namely QCGH, RMBGH and NDH, shall endeavor to acquire additional COVID-19 beds, drugs, treatment equipment and facilities, manpower, and logistical resources.

2.5. **Quarantine Facilities.** The Task Force shall monitor the capacity of the City's quarantine facilities and acquire any additional space when necessary, by way of lease or donation of facilities or other appropriate lawful mode in accordance with applicable regulations.

2.6. **Mandatory Reporting.** The Task Force shall enforce mandatory reporting of probable, suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19 by the private sector, public and private hospitals and health clinics, and each Barangay. The Task Force may recommend the appropriate sanctions on persons or entities that fail or neglect to report such cases.

2.7. **Treatment and Vaccination.** The Task Force shall keep abreast of the most current developments in treatment in COVID-19, including any vaccine developments. The Task Force shall determine the most effective and appropriate means of disseminating any vaccination or treatment developments.

2.8. **Special Concern Lockdown.** The Task Force may recommend to the Office of the City Administrator the Special Concern Lockdown of areas that have (i) clustered COVID-19 cases; and/or (iii) violation of minimum health protocols for such periods of time as necessary to mitigate the outbreak.

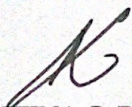
2.9. **Overseas Returnees.** The Task Force shall implement strict monitoring of returning overseas Filipinos and ensure that returnees comply with any applicable mandatory quarantine procedures.

2.10. **Information Campaign.** The Task Force shall promote prevention and safety measures to avoid the spread of COVID-19 virus, including physical distancing, handwashing, face masks, and other minimum health protocols.

3. **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.

4. **EFFECTIVITY.** This Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE, 15 July 2021, Quezon City.


MA. JOSEFINA G. BELMONTE
City Mayor