



Republic of the Philippines
QUEZON CITY COUNCIL

Quezon City
21st City Council

PO21CC-329

37th Regular Session

ORDINANCE NO. SP-**2958**, S-2020

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING INDIVIDUAL QUARANTINE PROTOCOLS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

Introduced by Councilors FRANZ S. PUMAREN, ERIC Z. MEDINA, ATTY. BONG LIBAN and VICTOR V. FERRER, JR.

Co-Introduced by Councilors Bernard R. Herrera, Lena Marie P. Juico, Dorothy A. Delarmente, M.D., Nicole Ella V. Crisologo, Winston "Winnie" T. Castelo, Eden Delilah "Candy" A. Medina, Kate Galang-Coseteng, Matias John T. Defensor, Wencerom Benedict C. Lagumbay, Jorge L. Banal, Sr., Peachy V. De Leon, Imee A. Rillo, Marra C. Suntay, Irene R. Belmonte, Resty B. Malañgen, Ivy L. Lagman, Hero M. Bautista, Karl Castelo, Patrick Michael Vargas, Shaira L. Liban, Ram V. Medalla, Allan Butch T. Francisco, Marivic Co Pilar, Rogelio "Roger" P. Juan, Diorella Maria G. Sotto-Antonio, Donato "Donny" C. Matias, Freddy S. Roxas and Noe Dela Fuente.

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2020, Proclamation No. 922, S. 2020 was issued by the President declaring a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the Philippines due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak, and enjoining all government agencies and local government units to render full assistance and cooperation and mobilize the necessary resources to undertake critical, urgent, and appropriate response and measures in a timely manner to curtail and eliminate the COVID-19 threat;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO), which includes the Philippines as a Member State and which has the primary role of directing and coordinating international health within the United Nations system, declared the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak as a global pandemic;

WHEREAS, under Proclamation No. 929, S. 2020, the President declared a State of Calamity throughout the Philippines and imposed Community Quarantine throughout Luzon due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, under Resolution No. SP-8141, s. 2020, the City Council declared Quezon City to be under a State of Calamity due to the COVID-19 outbreak;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health (DOH) issued Department Memorandum No. 2020-0258, otherwise known as the "Updated Interim Guidelines on Expanded Testing for COVID-19", which states, among others, that based on currently available evidence; Real-Time Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (rRT-PCR) testing is the confirmatory test used for diagnosis of COVID-19 infection, but recommends that such testing be limited to close contacts of confirmed cases to avoid depleting testing resources;

WHEREAS, Section 6 (e) of Republic Act No. 11332, otherwise known as 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; mandatory reporting of notifiable diseases and health events of public health concern; epidemic/outbreak and epidemiologic investigations; rapid containment, quarantine and isolation, disease prevention and control measures, and product recall; and response activities for events of public health concern;

WHEREAS, based on Book I, Title I, Chapter II, Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991", 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, Book III, Title III, Chapter III, Article III, Section 458 (a) (1) (iv) of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991", provides that the City Council shall adopt measures to protect the inhabitants of the City from the harmful effects of natural disasters and calamities;

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WHEREAS, Book III, Title III, Chapter III, Article III, Section 458 (a) (5) (xii) of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991", provides that the City Council shall approve measures and adopt quarantine regulations to prevent the introduction and spread of diseases;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 daily cases nationwide is rising again, reaching a peak of 5,032 new cases on August 2, 2020. While due to the tireless efforts of the Quezon City Local Government, the City's per capita cases have fallen below the top 10 affected cities in the Philippines, it is necessary to enhance compliance with health measures to preserve the City's strides in fighting the disease;

WHEREAS, individual quarantine is a core disease control strategy, particularly of emerging infectious diseases such as COVID-19;

WHEREAS, to contain the spread of the pandemic, it is essential for suspect or confirmed COVID-19 cases to comply with quarantine protocols on an individual level.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF QUEZON CITY IN REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. Title. -This Ordinance shall be known and referred to as the "Quezon City Individual Quarantine Protocols During the COVID-19 Pandemic."

SECTION 2. DEFINITION OF TERMS. - For purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms are hereby defined as follows:

- a. CASE - refers to an individual who is either a COVID-19 suspect, probable, or confirmed patient.
- b. CLOSE CONTACT - refers to an individual who may have come into contact with a probable or confirmed case two (2) days prior to onset of illness of the probable or confirmed COVID-19 case (for asymptomatic cases, the date of sample collection shall be used as reckoning point) until the time that said cases test negative on laboratory confirmation or other approved laboratory test through:

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- b.1. Face-to-face contact with a probable or confirmed case within one (1) meter and for more than fifteen (15) minutes;
- b.2. Direct physical contact with a probable or confirmed case; or
- b.3. Direct care for a patient with probable or confirmed COVID-19 disease without using proper personal protective equipment.
- c. CONFIRMED CASE - refers to any individual who tested positive for COVID-19 through rRT-PCR by laboratory confirmation at the national reference laboratory, subnational reference laboratory, or a DOH-certified laboratory testing facility.
- d. COVID-19 - stands for "Coronavirus Disease 2019", which is caused by the virus known as the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).
- e. INDIVIDUAL QUARANTINE - refers to the separation from others of an individual who is a suspect, probable or confirmed case for COVID-19, have been exposed to COVID-19, or a close contact of a confirmed or probable case for COVID-19.
- f. PROBABLE CASE - refers to a suspect case who fulfills any of the following conditions:
 - f.1. Suspect case whose testing for COVID-19 is inconclusive;
 - f.2. Suspect case who tested positive for COVID-19 but whose test was not conducted in a national or subnational reference laboratory or officially accredited laboratory for COVID-19 confirmatory testing; or

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- f.3. Suspect case who died without undergoing any COVID-19 confirmatory testing.

- g. COVID-19 RAPID ANTIBODY TEST - is a blood test that identifies antibodies produced by the immune system as it develops immunity to COVID-19. This test can read immunoglobulin M (IgM), or the early immune response, and the immunoglobulin G (IgG), or the delayed immune response.

- h. rRT-PCR - (or COVID-19 RT-PCR) stands for "Real-Time Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction", which is the standard testing procedure for detecting SARS-CoV-2, the causative agent of COVID-19. This is a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test designed to detect, measure, and study ribonucleic acid (RNA) viruses. It allows a single strand of RNA to be translated into a complementary deoxyribonucleic acid, which will then be amplified following the routine PCR method.

- i. SUSPECT CASE - refers to an individual who fulfills any of the following conditions:
 - i.1. All Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) cases where no other etiology fully explains the clinical presentation;

 - i.2. Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) cases with any of the following conditions:
 - i.2.1. With no other etiology that fully explains the clinical presentation, and a history of travel to or residence in an area that reported local transmission of COVID-19 during the fourteen (14) days prior to onset of symptoms; or

 - i.2.2. With contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 during the fourteen (14) days prior to the onset of symptoms.

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i.3. An individual with fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other respiratory signs or symptoms fulfilling any of the following conditions:

i.3.1. Aged sixty (60) years old and above;

i.3.2. With a comorbidity;

i.3.3. Assessed as having a high-risk pregnancy;
and/or

i.3.4. Healthcare worker.

SECTION 3. *rRT-PCR TESTING FOR CLOSE CONTACTS.* - The Quezon City Health Department (QCHD), through the Quezon City Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance Unit, shall prescribe rRT-PCR testing or the standard testing procedure for detecting SARS-CoV-2 under the prevailing DOH guidelines for close contacts of a confirmed or probable case.

SECTION 4. *PERIOD OF INDIVIDUAL QUARANTINE, AND PERSONS REQUIRED TO UNDERGO INDIVIDUAL QUARANTINE.* - The quarantine period shall be determined by QCHD, in consultation with the Quezon City General Hospital, Rosario Maclang Bautista General Hospital, and/or the Novaliches District Hospital, based on the most current medical protocols. In general, subject to prevailing protocols, ending an individual quarantine shall require fourteen (14) days without symptoms and the clearance of a medical doctor, or a negative rRT-PCR test. The QCHD shall prescribe the requirements for the conduct of rRT-PCR, COVID-19 rapid antibody test, and other tests for the detection of COVID-19 provided in the issuances by the DOH and other relevant government agencies.

The QCHD shall require persons to individually quarantine in their homes or in quarantine facilities, under the following circumstances:

a. Symptomatic patients who are suspect, probable, or confirmed cases shall complete fourteen (14) days of individual quarantine. The patient shall be considered as a recovered confirmed case and reintegrated to the community without the need for further testing, provided that he/she has completed the said quarantine period, has clinically recovered, is no longer symptomatic for at least (3) days, and has received clearance from a licensed medical doctor.

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- b. Asymptomatic patients who are confirmed cases shall complete fourteen (14) days of individual quarantine. The patient shall be considered as a recovered confirmed case without the need for further testing, provided that he/she has remained asymptomatic for the entire quarantine period, and has received clearance from a licensed medical doctor.
- c. Symptomatic patients who are in close contacts with a confirmed or probable cases shall be quarantined for fourteen (14) days from date of last contact with a probable or confirmed case or until asymptomatic, whichever is longer.
- d. Asymptomatic patients who are in close contacts with a confirmed or probable cases shall be quarantined for fourteen (14) days from date of last contact with a confirmed or probable case. The patient shall be released from quarantine after the said period even without testing or test results as long as the patient remains asymptomatic for the entire duration of the quarantine.
- e. Persons who have taken an rRT-PCR test shall assume they will test positive, and, immediately after swabbing, self-quarantine. The patient shall be released from quarantine if he/she has remained asymptomatic for the entire quarantine period and has received clearance from a licensed medical doctor, or received a negative rRT-PCR test.

SECTION 5. PLACE OF INDIVIDUAL QUARANTINE. - The person required to undergo individual quarantine shall be placed on home quarantine, provided that the home has a room and toilet for the exclusive use of the concerned person. If home quarantine is not feasible, then the QCHD may require the concerned person to isolate at the available HOPE quarantine facility or other quarantine facility of the City nearest to the home of the concerned person.

SECTION 6. MANDATORY COMPLIANCE. - While under quarantine, the concerned person shall remain alone in the room designated for his exclusive use, and shall not share the use of his/her toilet facilities with anyone. The concerned person must neither receive visitors nor interact with any person, including family members. The concerned person shall neither share any beddings or utensils with any other person. A quarantined person found in public before the expiration of the quarantine period may be charged for a violation of this Ordinance.

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SECTION 7. ENFORCEMENT. Barangay officials, including tanods, where the concerned person is undergoing home quarantine are hereby deputized as agents in the enforcement of this Ordinance. They shall regularly monitor the concerned person to ensure strict compliance with the provisions herein.

The City Mayor may also deputize the Philippine National Police assigned in Quezon City as additional agents in the enforcement of this Ordinance.

SECTION 8. VIOLATION. - Persons who break quarantine in violation of this Ordinance may be physically returned to quarantine by barangay and/or City officials, with police assistance, if necessary. The QCHD may re-adjust the quarantine period of the concerned violator accordingly. Further, persons who break home quarantine may be required by the QCHD to isolate instead in a quarantine facility of the City.

Aside from the foregoing, individual quarantine violators shall be penalized as follows:

First Offense: Fine of One Thousand Pesos (Php1,000.00)

Second Offense: Fine of Three Thousand Pesos (Php3,000.00)

Third Offense: Fine of Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00) or imprisonment of not more than one (1) month, or both such fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the court.

In the event that the violator of this Ordinance is a minor or child (person under eighteen (18) years old), his/her parents or legal guardians shall be issued with the Ordinance Violation Receipt corresponding to the violation and shall be liable to pay the fine and/or undergo the penalty provided herein.

The foregoing is without prejudice to the filing of appropriate charges under Republic Act No. 11332 or any other applicable law.

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SECTION 9. ISSUANCE OF ORDINANCE VIOLATION RECEIPT (OVR). - Any person who is cited in violation of any provision of this Ordinance shall be issued an OVR by concerned barangay officials who shall properly observe the procedure in the issuance of OVR pursuant to the applicable City Ordinance. Violators who are minors (persons below eighteen (18) years old) are exempted from the issuance of an OVR.

SECTION 10. VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCE BY A CHILD (PERSON UNDER EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OLD). - A child who is cited for violation of this Ordinance shall not be subject to the penalties provided herein. However, the child shall be subject to an intervention program for minor offenders to be determined and designed by the City Social Services and Development Department (SSDD) in accordance with the applicable City Ordinance.

SECTION 11. NO CONTEST PROVISION. - Any person apprehended for violation of this Ordinance, who does not wish to contest the violation and is willing to voluntarily pay the fine imposed upon him/her prior to the filing of formal complaint with the Office of the City Prosecutor, shall be allowed to pay said fine with the City Treasurer or in the barangay where he/she was apprehended, for the purpose of closure of the offender's OVR. The procedure for the availment of the No Contest provision shall be in accordance with the applicable City Ordinance.

SECTION 12. NON-PAYMENT OF FINE. - If the violator does not pay the fine within five (5) days from the issuance of the OVR, the officer who apprehended the violator shall file the necessary charges to the Office of the City Prosecutor.

Moreover, the barangay where the violator resides shall keep a record of its residents with outstanding and overdue OVR, and may refuse to issue a barangay clearance or document that attests to the violator's good standing until such time that the OVR has been paid and its corresponding action has been cleared and closed.

SECTION 13. DURATION. - This Ordinance shall remain effective until the City Mayor, on recommendation of the QCHD, determines that the emergency public health measures contained herein are no longer necessary.

SECTION 14. REPEALING CLAUSE. - All Ordinances, Resolutions, Executive Orders, Memorandum Circulars and Administrative Orders or parts thereof, which are inconsistent or contrary with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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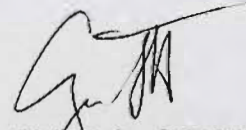
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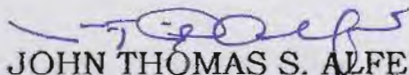
SECTION 15. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. - If any provision of this Ordinance is declared void or unconstitutional, the remaining portions shall not be affected and shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 16. EFFECTIVITY. - This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval.


ENACTED: August 3, 2020.


GIAN G. SOTTO
City Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:

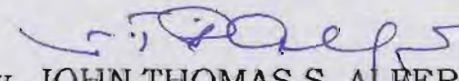

Atty. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS III
City Government Dept. Head III

APPROVED: AUG 11 2020


MA. JOSEFINA G. BELMONTE
City Mayor

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this Ordinance was APPROVED by the City Council on Second Reading on August 3, 2020 and was PASSED on Third/Final Reading under Suspended Rules on the same date.


Atty. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS III
City Government Dept. Head III

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