



MEMORANDUM

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

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

SUBJECT : **Updated GCQ Guidelines**

DATE : October 6, 2020

BACKGROUND

On September 28, 2020, in consideration of relevant data on the COVID-19 pandemic, the Inter-Agency Task Force announced that the National Capital Region would remain on General Community Quarantine (GCQ). Accordingly, the City issues the following Updated GCQ Guidelines, which shall prevail over any conflicting clauses in previous guidelines. These Updated Guidelines shall take effect immediately.

GUIDELINES

- 1. Public Safety Hours.** Public safety hours shall be from **10 pm to 5 am**, provided that essential activities such as but not limited to market *bagsakan*, food take out and delivery, pharmacies, hospitals, convenience stores, and market operations may operate on a **24 hour basis**. During public safety hours, all persons should be at home, except for those (i) still out for purposes of work, or on the way home from work; (ii) those dealing with emergencies; or (iii) for purposes of air/sea travel. On a case to case basis, barangays may request the City Government for authority to impose a stricter curfew.
- 2. Limited Movement.** Persons aged **18 to 65** may leave home provided they have a quarantine pass, Authorized Person Outside Residence (APOR) ID or company ID. Persons younger than 18 or older than 65 may leave home only for indispensable reasons. Either a quarantine pass, APOR ID or company ID shall remain required to enter establishments such as commercial buildings, markets and shopping centers. The foregoing establishments are reminded that a company ID should be accepted as an alternative, if the customer does not have a quarantine pass or APOR ID.
- 3. Limited Gatherings.** Mass gatherings for leisure or non-essential purposes such as but not limited to movie screenings, concerts, sporting events, and other entertainment activities, community assemblies, and non-essential work gatherings, shall remain prohibited. A "mass gathering" is any gathering of more than 10 persons. Limited social gatherings such as small parties, receptions and the like may be held provided attendees are not more than 10 persons and physical distancing is observed.

On the other hand, the following gatherings shall be allowed, subject to compliance with physical distancing:

- a. gatherings for essential work-related purposes such as business meetings (whether in the office or in special events places, at 50% venue capacity), government services or humanitarian services; and
- b. religious gatherings shall be allowed up to 10% of venue capacity as per IATF directive.

4. Undas Season; Visiting the Dead. All public and private cemeteries and columbaria in Quezon City shall close from **October 29, 2020 to November 4, 2020**, except for interment, only as necessary and as scheduled in advance. Outside the preceding period, cemeteries and columbaria may remain open and receive visitors at all days of the week, from 5 am to 10 pm (or for fewer hours at the discretion of management), subject to the Memorandum of the Mayor re Guidelines for Cemeteries dated September 21, 2020.

With respect to interment, note that non-COVID-19 deceased should be buried or cremated within two (2) days, provided that immediate family of not more than ten (10) persons may visit the remains of the deceased during the two day period. Home services for the deceased are prohibited. On the other hand, there may be no visitors for COVID-19 deceased, and the remains should be cremated within 12 hours of death as provided in the relevant ordinance.

5. General Commercial Activity. General retail, manufacturing, trading, commercial and technical services, and other businesses enumerated in Department of Trade and Industry Memorandum Circular No. 20-52 s. 2020 may operate subject to Sec. 19 below (Common Health Requirements), except for the establishments listed under Sec. 18 below (No Operations Allowed) which shall remain closed. The immediately succeeding sections deal with specific requirements for particular establishments. Unless otherwise specifically required, an establishment may operate at regular capacity subject to minimum health standards including physical distancing. Although establishments may operate at regular capacity, they are encouraged to adopt alternative work arrangements so that not all employees are physically present on work premises at the same time.

6. Clothing Retail. In light of studies¹ showing that the COVID-19 virus does not survive long under heat or sunlight, fitting of clothes shall be allowed provided that if unpurchased, the establishment should promptly sanitize the fitted clothes with steam or UV light before returning them to the rack.

7. Parks. Open-air parks such as Quezon Memorial Circle, La Mesa Ecopark, Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife and other similar establishments may operate at the discretion of their management, for non-contact and non-group exercise or sports activities such as walking, jogging, swimming, bicycling, tennis, badminton, etc. Amusement centers or rides within such parks, if any, should remain closed except to the extent of serving the foregoing limited activities. Park management should enforce

¹[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanmic/article/PIIS2666-5247\(20\)30003-3/fulltext#sec1](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanmic/article/PIIS2666-5247(20)30003-3/fulltext#sec1);
<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2004973>.

physical distancing and prohibit gatherings of more than 10 persons. For clarity, retail establishments within the parks may operate, such as sale of food, plants, etc.

8. Gyms, Fitness Centers & Sports Facilities. Gyms and sports facilities with City business permits may operate subject to the following limitations:

- a. Gym equipment, devices, and paraphernalia shall be arranged in such a way as to allow at least two (2) meters of physical distancing among users at all times.
- b. Only individual workouts or sports shall be allowed. Group workout sessions (e.g. zumba, yoga, pilates, etc.) shall be strictly prohibited.
- c. Gym and sports equipment, devices, paraphernalia, chairs, tables, lockers and bathrooms shall be properly sanitized after every use.
- d. Saunas and common grooming stations should remain closed.
- e. The use of drinking fountains shall be strictly prohibited. Clients may bring their own water bottles or purchase bottled water.
- f. Gyms should strongly encourage their customers to bring their own towels. Linens, robes, and towels shall be changed with properly sanitized ones after each service.

9. Personal Grooming Establishments. Personal grooming establishments (hair, nail and skin care) with City business permits may operate subject to the following limitations:

- a. Full body massage shall not be allowed;
- b. Employees should be equipped with face shields and face masks. Face shields should be sanitized regularly;
- c. Linens, robes, and towels shall be changed with properly sanitized ones after each service;
- d. Grooming equipment, devices and paraphernalia as well as service cubicles and workstations shall be properly sanitized before and after each service; and the waiting area shall be sanitized at regular intervals;
- e. Protective barriers with access holes for performing nail services or other services are encouraged, to the extent feasible.

10. Pet Grooming. Pet grooming businesses may operate on an appointment basis, with strict health measures including physical distancing and wearing of face masks.

11. Drive-in Cinemas. Drive-in cinemas may operate in open-air locations. A maximum of four (4) persons per car shall be allowed. Admission tickets may only be purchased online to avoid cash-based transactions. Food and drinks shall be delivered to each car by servers wearing masks and face shields. Drive-in cinemas should be fully equipped with security and traffic management, and first-aid responders.

12. Internet Cafes and Computer Shops. Internet cafes and computer shops of at least 30 square meters in size may operate provided that they have a City business permit and maintain physical distancing of at least one meter between workstations. Natural ventilation should be used to the extent possible.

13. Testing, Tutorial and Review Centers. Testing, tutorial and review centers may operate subject to the following limitations:

- a. Students or examinees must be at least 21 years old;
- b. Instructors, proctors, examinees, and students in a room must be at least two (2) meters apart from each other;
- c. Persons exhibiting symptoms such as fever, cough, or difficulty breathing shall be politely declined entry and have their exam or class rescheduled, if feasible;
- d. Persons must bring their own pens and pencils. The use of a common pen for filling out forms, attendance sheets, and for such other purposes is prohibited;
- e. Such establishments are highly encouraged to provide online classes to the extent possible.

14. Sale of Liquor. Restaurants, hotels and other tourism establishments may serve up five (5) servings of alcoholic beverages to their **dine-in** customers from **1 pm to 10 pm**, which may be consumed inside the establishment with meals. On the other hand, **duly licensed liquor dealers** may continue to sell to their retail customers from opening to 5 pm.

For clarity, non-retail supply, distribution or delivery of alcoholic beverages may take place within or outside the window hours.

Drinking in public or on sidewalks, etc. shall remain prohibited; persons may drink at home or inside restaurants or establishments. Drinking with friends and relatives from other households is discouraged to reduce the possibility of transmission.

15. Travel Services. Travel agencies, tour operators, reservation service and related activities may operate with a skeleton workforce for administrative activities.

16. Hotels and Accommodation Establishments. Only hotels that have a 4 or 5 star rating from the Department of Tourism (DOT), and have obtained a DOT Certificate to Operate for Staycations, may accept staycation guests. Hotels and the like that do not meet such requirements may only accommodate guests with existing long-term bookings, and healthcare workers for accommodation near their workplace. Ancillary establishments within the premises of hotels, such as restaurants, cafes, bars, gyms, spas, and the like may operate, provided the hotel is not being used as a quarantine facility, subject to the health measures required under these Guidelines. Buffets are strictly prohibited.

17. Online Gaming. Online gaming such as e-games, e-bingo except for e-sabong may open for dry run, trial run or technical testing purposes subject to the relevant PAGCOR guidelines and approvals and minimum health standards.

18. No Operations Allowed. The following establishments shall remain closed:

- a. Indoor cinemas, karaoke bars, amusement parks or rides, resorts, water parks and similar establishments;
- b. Libraries, archives, museums, cultural centers; and
- c. Kids playhouses, day care centers.

19. Common Health Requirements. In addition to the health protocols required under the GCQ Guidelines dated August 19, 2020 (no face mask, no entry; physical distancing; temperature checks, etc.), all permitted establishments must have a City business permit, and should comply with the following:

- a. Provide non-contact facilities particularly when logging customers entering, such as QR code systems for health forms. Establishments that cannot provide non-contact logging should encourage their customers to bring their own pens for logging in, and regularly sanitize their own pens; and
- b. Strictly log in the name, address and contact number of all entering customers for contact tracing purposes.

20. Further Guidelines. These Guidelines shall be subject to further issuances or circulars of the IATF, DTI or other relevant national government agencies.

21. Compliance and Enforcement. The member offices of the City's Law and Order Cluster, regulatory departments, the Barangays, and the QCPD shall continue enforcing 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).



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City Mayor