

newsinfo.inquirer.net

Palace: NCR may return to stricter quarantine if virus cases hit 85K by end-July

Krissy Aguilar

4-6 minutes



In this file photo, residents watch as a police officer rides atop an Armored Personnel Carrier by their home during the start of a lockdown due to a rise in COVID cases in the city of Navotas, Manila, Philippines, Thursday, July 16, 2020. Coronavirus infections continue to rise in the country after reopening the economy that is on the brink of a recession while still struggling

to combat the pandemic. (AP Photo/Aaron Favila)

MANILA, Philippines — Metro Manila’s return to a more stringent lockdown measure is possible if the number of COVID-19 cases reaches 85,000 by July 31, Malacañang said Wednesday.

Responding to a question of whether the nation’s capital region will likely go back to a stiffer quarantine category if cases reach 85,000 by the end of this month, presidential spokesperson Harry Roque during an interview over CNN Philippines said:

“That’s a distinct possibility, although it’s a possibility that I wish would not happen because we all know that while we have to contain the disease, we also need to re-start our livelihoods ‘no.”

In a recently published study, [experts from the University of the Philippines predict 85,000 infections and 2,000 deaths by the end of this month](#) if the trend of new cases persists.

“We’ve come to a very crucial point where I think the economy can no longer afford to be shut down anew. But if we have to and there’s no alternative, we need to do it,” he added.

Roque also expressed confidence that Filipinos will cooperate in taking care of their health to preserve their livelihoods and keep Metro Manila in its current quarantine status.

“And I think the message has been well received by the Filipinos that we need to really take care of our health so we can proceed and pursue a livelihood anew ‘no,” Roque said.

“So, yes, a reversion to MECQ [modified enhanced community quarantine] or a more stringent quarantine is possible. I hope it will not happen though,” he went on.

Most areas in the country, including Metro Manila, are either under general community quarantine or modified general

community quarantine.

Cebu City is the lone area in the country that is placed under MECQ.

As of Tuesday, the number of [COVID-19 cases in the country reached 70,764](#) with 1,837 deaths and 23,281 recoveries.

KGA

For more news about the novel coronavirus click [here](#).

[What you need to know about Coronavirus.](#)

For more information on COVID-19, call the DOH Hotline: (02) 86517800 local 1149/1150.

The Inquirer Foundation supports our healthcare frontliners and is still accepting cash donations to be deposited at Banco de Oro (BDO) current account #007960018860 or donate through PayMaya using this [link](#).

Read Next

Palace: MECQ extension 'possible, but highly unlikely'

slide 1 to 9 of 9

slide 1 to 9 of 9

slide 1 to 9 of 9



00:30

Palace: MECQ extension 'possible, but highly unlikely'



01:56

Palace not keen on extending MECQ: Economy cannot bear another lockdown



01:46

Palace: 3rd tranche of cash aid for MECQ area residents up to Congress



01:22

'We need to prevent vaccine nationalism', says WHO chief



03:19

WATCH: Bakuna kontra COVID-19 na galing Russia at China, babayaran ng Pilipinas



04:55

WATCH: Philippine Red Cross, hirap singilin ang P800-M utang ng PhilHealth



01:53

WATCH Sec Puyat, inakusahan ng isang kongresista ng pagpabor sa malalaking negosyo sa tourism sector



03:35

Duque admits corruption, 'syndicate' within PhilHealth



00:32

'Malicious, without basis,' Duque says of PhilHealth mafia
'godfather' tag

EDITORS' PICK

MOST READ

Don't miss out on the latest news and information.

Subscribe to [INQUIRER PLUS](#) to get access to The Philippine Daily Inquirer & other 70+ titles, share up to 5 gadgets, listen to the news, download as early as 4am & share articles on social media. Call 896 6000.

For feedback, complaints, or inquiries, [contact us](#).