No vax card, no entry

Lapu-Lapu City to require proof of vaccination in establishments as, along with two other cities, Cebu City and Mandaue, it tightens quarantine restrictions
EBU CITY (PNA) — Lapu-Lapu City Mayor Junard Chan on Tuesday, July 27, said his executive order requiring residents to present a vaccination card in entering public and private markets and other establishments is meant to entice them to get inoculated against COVID-19.

Chan admitted in a radio interview that the city had a low vaccination turnout and he saw the need to bolster efforts to reach the 70 percent population protection.

On Monday, July 26, he issued Executive Order 2021-060 imposing stricter measures amid a surge in coronavirus cases and placing the entire city under a month-long modified general community quarantine until Aug. 25.

He said, however, that the executive order that would require residents entering markets, convenience stores, and department stores to present their vaccination card, would take effect on Aug. 25.

"We will wait until Aug. 25. Let's us wait and see. It's not yet final as we will evaluate the turnout in our vaccination centers," Chan said.

The mayor was reacting to netizens’ social media comments on the new measure, saying the new measure would make it hard for them to access basic and essential goods amid the pandemic.

He appealed to the residents to
cooperate with the city in observing the minimum health protocols as well as in its effort to inoculate at least 70 percent of the population to reach the protection goal against COVID-19.

"Since the start of the pandemic, we have had nothing to think of except the welfare of our people. We don't want anything else to happen but to provide protection to the Oponganons (residents of Lapu-Lapu City). But the COVID-19 cases are seriously high," Chan said in a separate statement posted on his social media page.

He said on Friday, July 23, that the weekend before, the city recorded 93 new cases, 85 on Saturday and 64 on Sunday.

He noted that the allotted beds for COVID-19 patients in Metro Cebu's public and private hospitals had been filled up due to a surge in cases.

Meanwhile, in two other cities in Cebu, as well as in Lapu-Lapu, tighter restrictions have been implemented due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases.

In the Executive Orders issued by the mayors of Cebu, Mandaue, and Lapu-Lapu, the curfew will start from 10 p.m. instead of 11 p.m. and will last until 4 a.m.

Cebu City Acting Mayor Michael Rama admitted that there was a steady increase of COVID-19 cases in the city and the new daily cases even reached 308 on July 24.

"Based on the data gathered by the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), it has noted an increase in the number of social gatherings in the city, which is a factor in the rising cases," Rama said. "Considering the current situation, the City Government deems it necessary to reimpose the liquor ban in order to prevent unnecessary gatherings."

Like in Cebu City, Mandaue City Mayor Jonas Cortes issued his own EO prohibiting non-essential public gatherings, imposing new curfew hours, and reimposing the liquor ban.

The city also requires a negative RT-PCR test result for those arriving at seaports from outside of Cebu Island.

In Lapu-Lapu City, Chan also ordered the suspension of non-essential mass gatherings including zumba, fiestas, general assemblies, work-related conferences, trainings, and MICE events from July 26 to Aug. 25. He even ordered the banning of videokaraoke activities even in residences.

Based on the July 26 bulletin of the Department of Health Central Visayas, Cebu City had 2,174 active cases, Mandaue tallied 733 active cases, and Lapu-Lapu had 972. (with a report from Calvin D. Cordova)