



Prague, 23 December 2021

Ref. No.: MZDR 14600/2021 -26/MIN/KAN

MZDRX01ITD9E

EXTRAORDINARY MEASURE

The Ministry of Health, as the competent administrative authority pursuant to Section 80(1)(g) of Act No. 258/2000 Coll., on Public Health Protection and Amendments to Certain Related Acts, as amended (hereinafter referred to as “Act No. 258/2000 Coll.”), orders this Extraordinary Measure, proceeding pursuant to Section 69(1)(i) and (2) of Act No. 258/2000 Coll., to protect the population and prevent the occurrence and spread of COVID-19 caused by the novel SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus:

I.

1. A child in the preparatory class of primary school and the preparatory level of a special primary school or a pupil of a primary school, full-time form of education at a conservatory or full-time form of education of a secondary school (hereinafter referred to as a “school”) shall only be allowed by the school, school group or school club (hereinafter also referred to as the “school facility”) to be present in person at schooling or in the provision of school services if
 - a) they have taken a non-invasive preventive antigen test for the SARS-CoV-2 virus antigen at the intervals stipulated pursuant to Art. II, performed on their own or performed by another person and provided by the school (hereinafter the “preventive antigen test”), and submits the negative result of this test, or
 - b) they demonstrate that they took an RT-PCR test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus with a negative result no more than 72 hours earlier, or took a rapid antigen test (RAT) for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus antigen with a negative result, performed by a healthcare service provider no more than 24 hours earlier; or
 - c) at all times during the provision of schooling or school services in a school building or school facility or in an outdoor environment, if it is not possible to maintain a distance of at least 1.5 m from other children or pupils, they use respiratory protective equipment, that being a respirator or similar device (always without an exhalation valve) fulfilling at least all the technical conditions and requirements (for the product), including a filtration effectiveness of at least 94% according to the relevant standards; children and pupils up to 15 years of age and primary school pupils in the course of schooling or provision of school services at a primary school, school group or school club, and lower secondary school pupils in the course of secondary school education shall be entitled to use as protective equipment a medical face mask or similar device fulfilling at least all the technical conditions and requirements (for the product) of standard CSN EN 14683+AC, which prevents the spread of droplets.
2. A school may only conduct preventive tests using the tests designated for self-testing or permitted for use by non-professionals by the Ministry of Health.
3. The protective equipment referred to in paragraph 1(c) need not be used

- a) by persons with intellectual disorders, disorders on the autistic spectrum and cognitive disorders or severe alterations of their mental state, whose mental capacity or current mental state does not allow them to observe this prohibition,
- b) by persons who are unable for serious medical reasons to wear respiratory protective equipment as referred to in point 1(c) of the sentence before the semicolon, and who prove this fact to the school by a medical certificate; however, such persons shall be required to wear protective equipment as referred to in point 1(c) of the sentence after the semicolon which is specified in the medical certificate, except where the medical certificate specifically states that the person concerned cannot wear any respiratory protective equipment.

4. For the purposes of the personal presence of the child or pupil at the school facility, the condition under point 1(a) shall be deemed to be fulfilled if the person provides an affidavit of a negative result of a preventive antigen test carried out at the school. An affidavit is not required if the activities of the school and the school facility are carried out by a single legal entity.

5. For children and pupils referred to in point 1(c), the extraordinary measure of the Ministry of Health that stipulates the wearing of respiratory protective equipment and exceptions to this shall not apply while schooling or school services are being provided.

II.

1. Preventive testing at schools shall be conducted

- a) in the period from 3 January 2022 to 16 January 2022, always on Mondays and Thursday; if Monday or Thursday is not a school day, preventive testing will be conducted on the first school day following this date,
- b) on 17 January 2022 and then every Monday; if the first school day in the week is not a Monday, preventive testing will be conducted on the first school day in the week.

2. A preventive antigen test is always performed immediately after arriving at school. If the child or pupil is not present on the date of testing at school, the test will be performed on the date of their arrival.

III.

If the result of the preventive antigen test pursuant to Art. I(1)(a) is positive, the school is obliged to contact the child's or pupil's legal guardian immediately and inform them of the result of the preventive antigen test. The school shall issue confirmation of the positive test result to the child or pupil immediately using the form, a specimen of which is provided in the annex to this measure. This confirmation must contain the following data: name of the legal entity performing educational activity, company identification number (ID No.), organization identification code (IZO), school's contact person and their telephone number, name and surname of the tested child or pupil, their personal number, date of the test and signature of the school principal or their authorized representative. The child or pupil is obliged to leave the school immediately; in the case of a child or pupil that cannot leave the school alone, the school is obliged to ensure their separation from other persons immediately and their legal guardian must pick them up at school or arrange for them to be picked up by another person.

IV.

1. Unless otherwise specified below, the school shall, without undue delay after obtaining the results of the preventive antigen tests, send to the relevant regional public health authority or the Public Health Authority of the City of Prague (hereinafter referred to as the "regional public

health authority”) via the Covid Forms Application (hereinafter referred to as “CFA”) an electronic file in xlsx format containing a list of children or pupils who have been tested at the school and have had a positive result of the preventive antigen test, including their name and surname, contact telephone number, personal number, date of birth, health insurance company code, contact e-mail address, municipality of residence and postcode and nationality and the date of the test, as well as the school identification data.

2. If, in justified cases for technical reasons, it is not possible to follow the procedure in point 1, the school shall, without delay and no later than at the end of the day on which the preventive antigen tests are carried out at the school, notify the legal guardians of children or pupils who have had a positive result of the preventive antigen test referred to in Art. I, point 1, or adult pupils who have had a positive result of the preventive antigen test referred to in Art. I, point 1, of the obligation to undergo a confirmatory RT-PCR test for SARS-CoV-2.

V.

On the basis of the data sent by the school pursuant to Art. IV, point 1, the regional public health authority shall issue an electronic request for confirmatory testing for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus using the RT-PCR method to all children or pupils who were included in the list sent by the school pursuant to Art. IV(1).

VI.

1. All persons with a positive result of the preventive antigen test referred to in Art. I, point 1(a) are ordered to undergo a confirmatory RT-PCR test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus without undue delay after being informed about the issuing of the electronic request referred to in Art. V or the notification from the school referred to in Art. IV(2).

2. In the case of a situation under Art. IV(2), the child's or student's legal guardian or adult student shall submit the school's confirmation under Art. IV(2) to the health care provider performing the confirmatory RT-PCR test.

3. The healthcare services provider performing the SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR test to whom the confirmation under point 2 was submitted shall immediately issue a request for a confirmatory RT-PCR test for SARS-CoV-2 in the Infectious Disease Information System (ISIN), in the electronic request module, to the person referred to in point 1. The healthcare service provider shall also indicate in the ISIN in the electronic request module that the test is a confirmatory RT-PCR test following a positive result of a rapid antigen test (RAT) to stipulate the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus antigen for self-testing (use by non-professionals) carried out as part of routine preventive testing in schools and shall indicate the identification number (ICO) of the given school.

4. The healthcare service provider referred to in point 3 shall, after issuing the request referred to in point 3, immediately test the person for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus using the RT-PCR method. The healthcare service provider shall keep the confirmation referred to in point 2 for the purpose of control for 3 years.

5. If the result of the confirmatory RT-PCR test of a child or pupil is positive, the child, pupil or their legal guardian shall inform the registering healthcare service provider in general or pediatric medicine without undue delay of the positive result of the confirmatory RT-PCR test. This provider shall order the child or pupil to be isolated.

VII.

1. In the event that the child or pupil has a positive result of the preventive antigen test pursuant to Art. I(1)(a), then until the result of the confirmatory RT-PCR test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the school will only allow this child or student to attend in-person schooling or the provision of school services to the children or pupils who were in one class, division or group with this child or pupil during the 2 days before or 2 days after performing this test, on the school day in this period in which they undergo a preventive antigen test and present the negative result thereof. Art. I(1)(b) and (c), (2) to (5), Art. II(2), Art. III to VI, X and XII apply mutatis mutandis.

2. The school and school facility will ensure that the children or pupils under point 1 observe systemic measures, consisting of performing activities separately from other children or pupils during in-person schooling or the provision of school services until the result of the confirmatory RT-PCR test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus of the child or pupil with a positive preventive antigen test result is determined. Art. I(1)(c), (3) and (5) apply for all the children and students under point 1 mutatis mutandis. The children and pupils under point 1 shall furthermore use the hygienic facilities designated only for these children and pupils by the school or school facility, if it is organizationally feasible at the school or school facility to ensure separate hygienic facilities for these children or pupils, and to keep a distance of 1.5 meters from other persons when consuming food and meals including beverages.

VIII.

1. If a child or pupil or teaching staff member has a positive RT-PCR test result for the SARS-CoV-2 virus and was present at the school 2 days prior to showing clinical symptoms of Covid-19 or 2 days prior to the collection of a sample for the RT-PCR test, if they have no clinical symptoms of Covid-19, or before the date of the positive result of the RT-PCR test, the child's or pupil's legal guardian, the adult pupil or teaching staff member shall immediately report the positive test result to the school.

2. The school shall immediately inform the relevant regional public health authority by telephone or e-mail of the fact established pursuant to point 1. The school shall also send to the relevant regional public health authority, via the CFA, an electronic file in xlsx format containing a list of children or pupils and school staff who have been assessed by the school, in cooperation with the regional public health authority, as an epidemiologically significant contact of the child or pupil or teaching staff member referred to in point 1, including their name and surname, contact telephone number, personal number, date of birth, health insurance company code, contact e-mail address, municipality of residence and postcode and nationality, date of contact with the child or pupil or teaching staff member referred to in point 1 and the school's identification data. The regional public health authority shall carry out an epidemiological investigation, including a risk assessment, and take adequate anti-epidemic measures to prevent the spread of the disease. In the event that the regional public health authority decides to carry out preventive screening testing of children or pupils and school staff for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in an outbreak area defined by the regional public health on the basis of an epidemiological investigation, the school is obliged to send without delay, in accordance with the procedure referred to in the second sentence, the data of these children or pupils and staff, including their name and surname, contact telephone number, personal number, date of birth, health insurance company code, contact e-mail address, municipality of residence and postcode and nationality.

IX.

All healthcare service providers are directed to only issue a certificate under Art. I(3)(b) to persons who are prevented from using respiratory protective equipment under Art. 1(1)(c) for serious medical reasons, and are further directed to make a record of that fact and the reasons for it, including the diagnosis, in the person's medical records, including that the natural person has been advised of the risks associated with not using respiratory protective equipment under Art. I(1)(c).

X.

1. Children or pupils according to Art. I(1)(c) during schooling or the provision of school services
 - a) shall not exercise indoors; when exercising outdoors, they shall change clothes at a distance from other persons and shall not use the showers,
 - b) shall not sing, unless it is possible to maintain a distance of 2 m from other persons,
 - c) shall use the sanitary facilities designated by the school or school facility only for children and pupils who have not undergone a preventive antigen test as referred to in paragraph 1(a), if it is organizationally possible to provide special sanitary facilities for these pupils at the school or school facility,
 - d) when consuming food and meals, including beverages, shall be seated at a bench or table and shall not be required to wear respiratory protective equipment in accordance with Art. I(1)(c) and shall maintain a distance of 1.5 meters from other persons,
 - e) shall not be required to wear respiratory protective equipment as referred to in Art. I(1)(c) when in a room (i.e. outside the common areas) at an outdoor school or other similar event organised by the school.
2. The school and the school facility shall ensure compliance with this article.

XI.

1. The school may replace testing using antigen tests to determine the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus antigen with testing using RT-PCR tests for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, provided it has non-invasive diagnostic in vitro resources for the performance of self-sampling designated for the subsequent performance of the RT-PCR test and if it has arranged for the performance of RT-PCR tests with a healthcare service provider named in the list of analysis laboratories of the State Institute of Public Health (<http://www.szu.cz/tema/prevence/laboratorni-vysetrovani-puvodce-covid-19>). Art. I, Art II(2), Art. X and XIII apply mutatis mutandis, unless stated otherwise below, where this non-invasive preventive RT-PCR can be substituted by documenting the result of a rapid antigen test (RAT) for the SARS-CoV-2 antigen performed by a healthcare service provider that is no more than 24 hours old; the substitution of a preventive RT-PCR test may only be allowed if the results of the rapid antigen tests (RATs) are documented within the time limits specified in Art. II.
2. If the result of the test pursuant to point 1 is positive, the child, pupil or their legal guardian is obliged to inform the registering healthcare service provider in general or pediatric medicine without undue delay of the positive test result. This provider shall order the child or pupil to be isolated.
3. Preventive testing pursuant to point 1 is performed on any teaching day of the week at a frequency of once every 7 days. If the testing day is not a teaching day, preventive testing will be performed on a different day of the week.

XII.

The school shall report aggregated data about performed testing of the child or pupil pursuant to Art. I(1)(a) electronically to the CFA without undue delay on the date the test results are obtained. The report shall contain, at least, the contact person, type of test, total number of tested persons, number of persons with a positive test result, number of persons with a negative test result and number of inconclusive tests.

XIII.

Before commencing preventive testing pursuant to this extraordinary measure, the school will inform all the affected children and pupils and their legal guardians and affected employees about the manner of performing tests and rules specified in this extraordinary measure.

XIV.

The school shall ensure that all employees and persons subject to testing use personal protective respiratory equipment allocated by the employer, namely a respirator or other device (always without an exhalation valve) meeting at least all the technical conditions and requirements (for the product), including a filtration effectiveness of at least 94% in accordance with the relevant standards.

XV.

1. The university will provide accommodation to university students at university colleges only under the condition that the accommodated students demonstrate one of the following facts.

- a) they have been vaccinated against COVID-19 and submit a national certificate of completed vaccination or a certificate of completed vaccination issued pursuant to the European Union regulation on the EU COVID digital certificate¹, under the condition that at least 14 days have passed since completion of the vaccination programme; a national certificate of completed vaccination refers to a written confirmation issued at least in the English language by the authorised entity operating in a third country, a specimen of which is published in the list of recognised national certificates on the website of the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic; a written confirmation must contain data about the vaccinated person, type of vaccine administered, date of administration of the vaccine, identification of the entity that issued the confirmation of that vaccination, whereas these data must be verifiable via remote access directly from the written confirmation, assuming the vaccination was performed using
 - i) a medicinal product containing a COVID-19 vaccine granted market authorisation under Regulation (EC) No. 726/2004, or
 - ii) a medicinal product manufactured in accordance with a patent for the medicinal product pursuant to point i), if this medicinal product has been approved by the World Health

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/953 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2021 on a framework for the issuance, verification and recognition of interoperable certificates on vaccination, testing and recovery in relation to COVID-19 (EU COVID digital certificate) was published in the Official Journal of the European Union to facilitate free movement during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Regulation (EU) 2021/954 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2021 on a framework for the issuance, verification and recognition of interoperable certificates on vaccination, testing and recovery in relation to COVID-19 (EU COVID digital certificate) in relation to the nationals of third countries with permits to stay or reside in EU Member States during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Organization for emergency use; or
- b) they have undergone a laboratory-confirmed case of COVID-19, where the period of ordered isolation has ended, and no more than 180 days have passed since the first positive RT-PCR test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus or rapid antigen test (RAT) for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 antigen, or
 - c) they took an RT-PCR test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus with a negative result no more than 72 hours earlier, or took a rapid antigen test (RAT) for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus antigen with a negative result no more than 24 hours earlier.

2. Students are obliged to demonstrate the facts referred to in point 1 prior to the commencement of their accommodation and the university accommodation facility is obliged to check the proof of the facts referred to in point 1. A student who fails to demonstrate the facts referred to in point 1 shall not be allowed to enter the accommodation facilities of the university.

3. The facts shall be demonstrated before the start of the accommodation and every 7 days thereafter, except for the facts referred to in point (1)(a) and (b), which shall be demonstrated only once before the start of the accommodation.

XVI.

1. An employer who is a school, school facility as referred to in Art. I or a school canteen or school canteen-dispensary shall allow its employees to be present in person at the employer's workplace only if the employee proves one of the facts referred to in Art. I(1)(b) by the deadline referred to in Art. I or undergoes a rapid antigen test (RAT) on site to determine the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 antigen for self-testing (use by non-professionals) with a negative result, unless stipulated otherwise below. In the event of a positive result of a test undergone on the spot, Art. III to VII shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

2. If the employee does not meet any of the conditions under point 1, they shall not be allowed to be present at the workplace, unless they use protection of the airways, that being a respirator or similar devices (always without an exhalation valve) meeting minimally the technical (product) conditions and requirements, including a filtration efficacy of at least 94% pursuant to the relevant standards, for the entire duration of their activity in the school or school facility building or outdoor premises. Art. I(3) applies *mutatis mutandis*. In exceptional cases, where it is necessary for a child or pupil to be able to see the teaching staff member's mouth during schooling or the provision of school services, it is possible for the teaching staff member to use a protective shield as a respiratory protective device, provided that they maintain a distance of at least 1.5 meters from the children or pupils. As a part of educational activities whose character does not enable the wearing of a protective device (in particular physical education, playing wind instruments), the teacher who does not meet the conditions under point 1 must maintain a distance of at least 1.5 meters from others. The extraordinary measure of the Ministry of Health that stipulates the wearing of respiratory protective equipment and exceptions to this shall not apply to an employee who does not meet any of the conditions under point 1 for the period of performing their activity.

XVII.

This extraordinary measure applies only to schools and school facilities registered in the school register, with the exception of schools established by the Ministry of Justice and schools established alongside facilities for the performance of constitutional or protective education and primary schools alongside healthcare facilities, pursuant to Act No. 561/2004 Coll., on Preschool, Primary, Secondary, Higher Vocational and Other Education (the Schools Act), as amended.

XVIII.

With effect from 3 January 2022, the Extraordinary Measure

- a) of 27 October 2021, Ref. No. MZDR 14600/2021-20/MIN/KAN,
- b) of 1 November 2021, Ref. No. MZDR 14600/2021-21/MIN/KAN,
- c) of 12 November 2021, Ref. No. MZDR 14600/2021-22/MIN/KAN,
- d) of 18 November 2021, Ref. No. MZDR 14600/2021-23/MIN/KAN,
- e) of 20 November 2021, Ref. No. MZDR 14600/2021-24/MIN/KAN, and
- f) of 13 December 2021, Ref. No. MZDR 14600/2021-25/MIN/KAN are cancelled.

IXX.

Effectiveness

This extraordinary measure shall take effect on 3 January 2022.

Prof. MUDr. Vlastimil Válek, CSc., MBA, EBIR, undersigned
Minister of Health

**CONFIRMATION OF POSITIVE RESULT OF A PREVENTIVE
ANTIGEN TEST FOR THE PRESENCE OF THE SARS-COV-2 VIRUS
ANTIGEN PERFORMED BY A NON-PROFESSIONAL (SELF-TEST)**

Name of the legal entity performing the educational activity:†:

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ID No.

IZO

Contact person

Contact person's telephone:

IT IS CONFIRMED THAT THE PUPIL / EMPLOYEE

Surname

Name

Date of birth

Personal ID number:

**HAS ON [DATE] TAKEN AN ANTIGEN TEST AS
PART OF THE SCREENING TESTING AT SCHOOLS, AND THE
RESULT OF THIS SELF-TEST IS POSITIVE.**

In dated Signature of school principal or
their authorised representative

† A school for the purposes of this confirmation refers also to a school facility, school canteen and school canteen - dispensary