



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
Palackého náměstí 375/4, 128 01 Prague 2

Prague, 17 March 2022

Ref. No.: MZDR 705/2022-13/MIN/KAN
MZDRX01JUUMO

PROTECTIVE MEASURE

The Ministry of Health, as the competent administrative authority, pursuant to Section 80(1)(h) 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 Protective Measure, pursuant to Section 68(1) of Act No. 258/2000 Coll., in order to liquidate the risk of the occurrence of the COVID-19 disease caused by the novel SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus:

I.

Effective from 12:00 a.m. on 18 March 2022,

I. it orders:

A. Persons arriving from countries outside the European Union

1. citizens of the Czech Republic and other persons listed in point I.3 who are travelling to the Czech Republic from countries outside the European Union where they have stayed for more than 12 hours in the last 14 days,
 - a) to fill in a Passenger Locator Form before travelling,
 - b) before travelling, to have at their disposal
 - i) the result of a test to determine the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus or its antigen, or
 - ii) a national certificate proving that a course of vaccination has been administered or completed, or
 - iii) a certificate proving the person in question has contracted COVID-19;
 - c) to submit on request during a border or residence check a document on completion of the Passenger Locator Form, the document specified in point b), or written proof that an exception to such a protective measure applies to such a person;
 - d) if the person does not have a national certificate proving that a course of vaccination has been administered or completed, or a certificate proving the person in question has contracted COVID-19, to undergo an RT-PCR test between the 5th and 7th day after entering the Czech Republic, if the person is still residing in the Czech Republic, unless the public health authority has decided otherwise in an exceptional case,
Definition of the terms Passenger Locator Form, result of a test to determine the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus or its antigen, national certificate proving that a course of vaccination has been completed and certificate proving the person in question has contracted COVID-19 is provided in point III;
2. all other persons who stayed in countries outside the European Union for more than 12 hours in the last 14 days,
 - a) to fill in a Passenger Locator Form before travelling,

- b) before travelling, to have at their disposal
 - i) the result of a test to determine the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus (RT-PCR),
 - or
 - ii) a national certificate proving that a course of vaccination has been administered or completed, or
 - iii) a certificate proving the person in question has contracted COVID-19;
 - c) to submit on request during a border or residence check a document on completion of the Passenger Locator Form, the document specified in point b), or written proof that an exception to such protective measure applies to such person;
 - d) if the person does not have a national certificate proving that a course of vaccination has been administered or completed, or a certificate proving the person in question has contracted COVID-19, to undergo an RT-PCR test between the 5th and 7th day after entering the Czech Republic, if the person is still residing in the Czech Republic, unless the public health authority has decided otherwise in an exceptional case,
- Definition of the terms Passenger Locator Form, result of a test to determine the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, national certificate proving that a course of vaccination has been completed and certificate proving the person in question has contracted COVID-19 is provided in point III;
- 3. other persons are understood to mean
 - a) citizens of the European Union,
 - b) family members of citizens of the Czech Republic or the European Union with a residence permit for the territory of the European Union,
 - c) foreigners with a valid long-term or permanent residency permit in the European Union;
 - 4. that the obligations stated in point I.1 and I.2 do not apply to the persons stated in point 1.5; exceptions to partial obligations are stipulated in points I.6 and I.7;

B. Exemptions from Anti-epidemic Measures

B. a) Exemptions from all anti-epidemic measures defined in this Protective Measure

- 5. that the obligations arising from the anti-epidemic measures implemented under this Protective Measure and relating to arrivals to the Czech Republic do not apply to
 - a) international transport workers, if the reason for entry is substantiated by the appropriate document,
 - b) accredited members of diplomatic missions in the Czech Republic, including private service members, holders of service passports issued by the Czech Republic and holders of diplomatic passports travelling to or from the Czech Republic for service purposes and officials of international organizations registered with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs travelling to or from the Czech Republic for service purposes, if their stay in or outside the country does not exceed 72 hours,
 - c) minor persons with an intellectual disability, with an autism spectrum disorder and a cognitive disorder or with a severe alteration in mental status, whose mental capabilities or current mental status does not allow for complying with this Protective Measure and who have had a written medical certificate issued in English for this purpose by a doctor practicing in the Czech Republic or in another Member State of the European Union; the certificate must contain a seal and the doctor's identification information and telephone number,
 - d) members of the Prison Service or policemen performing escort activities or security escorts for aircraft,
 - e) children up to 12 years of age,

B. b) Exemptions from some of the anti-epidemic measures defined in this Protective Measure

- 6. that, in the case of citizens of the Czech Republic and other persons specified to in point 1.3, the pre-arrival obligations determined in Part A. of this Protective Measure shall not apply in the case of arrival by individual transport;

7. that the obligation to have the result of a test to determine the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus (RT-PCR) before travelling does not apply to a holder of a diplomatic note issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the impossibility of procuring a test to determine the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus (RT-PCR) outside the territory of the Czech Republic;

C. Arrival of COVID-positive Persons

8. that persons with COVID-19, except for the persons specified in point 1.9, are prohibited from entering the territory of the Czech Republic;
9. citizens of the Czech Republic and their co-travelling family members with an issued permit for temporary residence in the territory of the Czech Republic, citizens of the European Union with an issued certificate of temporary residence in the territory of the Czech Republic and foreign nationals with a permit for permanent residence in the territory of the Czech Republic issued by the Czech Republic in whom a test proved the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus less than 14 days before their planned entry into the territory of the Czech Republic,
 - a) should transport themselves to and subsequently within the territory of the Czech Republic by individual means of transport, if possible,
 - b) if they are travelling by public transport, should notify the carrier of possible persisting COVID-19 before starting the journey,
 - c) should notify the Regional Public Health Office with territorial jurisdiction immediately after entering the territory of the Czech Republic regardless of the means of transport,

D. Other Obligations of Persons and Government Authorities Relating to Prevention of Introduction and Spreading of COVID-19

10. embassies and consulates of the Czech Republic in third countries will only accept visa applications and applications for temporary and permanent residence permits, if:
 - a) all the applications are filed in third countries which are on the list of countries or territories with a low risk of infection,
 - b) all the applications are for short-term visas of persons who, under this Protective Measure, are holders of a national certificate proving that a course of vaccination has been administered or national certificate proving that a course of vaccination has been completed or persons who have contracted COVID-19, and the period of validity of the certificate is longer than the period of validity of the short-term visa applied for; an embassy or consulate may determine preferential office hours for the submission of such applications,
 - c) the applications are for long-term or permanent residence permits; an embassy or consulate may determine preferential office hours for the submission of such applications,
 - d) the applications are for long-term visas,
 - e) the applications are for short-term visas,
 - i) for the purpose of seasonal employment or for the purpose of employment if the foreigner is employed in food production, health care or social services, or short-stay visas for the purpose of employment, if they are filed in Ukraine by Ukrainian nationals, provided they do not exceed the maximum number of such applications stipulated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after discussion with the Ministry of Health,
 - ii) for scientific, key and highly qualified staff, provided that the conditions set out in the Key and Scientific Staff Programme and the Highly Qualified Staff Programme are met, and for critical infrastructure service staff,
 - iii) for the reasons set out in point II.1(d) to (l);
11. embassies and consulates of the Czech Republic in third countries and the Ministry of the Interior to suspend all proceedings on applications for visas and residence submitted to the embassies of the Czech

Republic in third countries for countries whose measures implemented due to the COVID-19 pandemic do not allow for the performance of operations;

12. embassies and consulates of the Czech Republic in third countries to enter a visa into a travel document based only on applications which can be accepted under point I.10 or for which the proceedings were not interrupted according to point I.11,
13. third country nationals who intend to enter the territory of the Czech Republic for the purpose of employment to present a current certificate from the employer that the employer will employ the foreign national no later than before a long-term visa or a visa for the purpose of collection of a residence permit is entered into their travel document, if more than 90 days has elapsed since the filing of an application for a long-term visa or a long-term residence permit,
14. foreigners detained pursuant to Section 27 of Act No. 273/2008 Coll., on the Police of the Czech Republic, or pursuant to Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic and on Amendment of Certain Acts, as amended, to undergo the collection of a biological sample in order to detect the presence of the COVID-19 disease and to provide the healthcare staff with the necessary cooperation when taking this sample at the testing location of the healthcare service provider or foreigner detention facility,
15. carriers providing the international transport of persons that transport persons to the Czech Republic not to allow the transport of travelers who are not authorized to enter the territory of the Czech Republic under this Protective Measure or who have failed to comply with the obligations specified in points I.1 or I.2, unless they are persons who are exempt pursuant to this Protective Measure;

II. it prohibits

1. all third country nationals from entering the territory of the Czech Republic; this does not apply:
 - a) to foreign nationals who provide evidence that they stayed within the territory of a member state of the European Union or in a country with a low risk of infection for at least 14 days immediately before entering the territory of the Czech Republic and did not stay in the territories of countries with other than a low risk of infection for more than 12 hours during the last 14 days,
 - b) to holders of a valid long-term visa, long-term, temporary or permanent residence for the territory of the European Union,
 - c) to foreign nationals who were issued short-term visas by the Czech Republic after 11 May 2020 or by a Member State of the European Union on behalf of the Czech Republic under a bilateral agreement after 1 August 2021,
 - d) to family members pursuant to Section 15a of Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the Residency of Foreigners in the Czech Republic and on the amendment of certain laws, as amended, of citizens of the Czech Republic or citizens of the European Union,
 - e) if, in exceptional situations, entry and the physical presence of the foreigner within the territory of the Czech Republic are absolutely necessary and at the same time the reason for entry is supported by the appropriate document issued by the head of the central state administration authority, which contains a proper specific justification of the necessity of the foreigner's physical presence within the territory of the Czech Republic and the impossibility of ensuring fulfilment of the purpose pursued in another manner; a mere general reference to the need for the person's physical presence does not meet the condition of provision of proper specific justification; the document cannot be issued for accompanying family members of the foreign applicant;
 - f) to international transport workers, if the reason for entry is substantiated by the appropriate document,
 - g) to accredited members of diplomatic missions in the Czech Republic, including private service members, holders of diplomatic passports travelling to the Czech Republic for service purposes and officials of international organizations registered with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

- h) in urgent emergency situations (the need to provide planned healthcare services, fulfillment of a duty imposed by a court, travel on the basis of a summons by a state authority, enforcement of a court decision, official proceedings, an entry examination for studying, a nostrification examination, for necessary care for close family members who are unable to take care of themselves, to exercise the right of care or contact with a minor, other humanitarian situations) if the reason for entry is substantiated by an appropriate document,
 - i) to foreigners who have a provable long-term partnership relationship with a citizen of the Czech Republic or a citizen of the European Union with temporary residence in excess of 90 days or permanent residence in the Czech Republic based primarily on cohabitation in a common household and such a foreigner was issued confirmation by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs allowing entry into the Czech Republic pursuant to this point,
 - j) to vaccinated persons with a national certificate proving that a course of vaccination has been administered, to vaccinated persons with a national certificate proving that a course of vaccination has been completed and to persons who have contracted COVID-19, and the period of stay will not be longer than the period of validity of the certificate,
 - k) if the person is a minor child travelling with their legal guardian or accompanying another person and they are holders of a national certificate proving that a course of vaccination has been administered or a national certificate proving that a course of vaccination has been completed or if they are someone who has contracted COVID-19 and the period of validity of the certificate is longer than the intended length of stay; this provision cannot be used for school trips and similar group visits;
 - l) if entry is in the foreign policy interest of the Czech Republic, the decision on which is made only by the Minister of Foreign Affairs;
- provided that they meet the conditions for entering as defined in this Protective Measure and are otherwise authorized to enter the territory of the Czech Republic,

III. stipulates

1. that the list of countries or territories at low risk of COVID-19 is based on the criteria set out in EU Council Recommendation 2020/912 of 30 June 2020 on the temporary restriction on non-essential travel into the EU and the possible lifting of such a restriction, as amended, and does not include countries or territories other than those listed in Annex I to that EU Council Recommendation; the list of countries or territories is issued in the form of a protective measure;
2. that meeting the obligation to submit a completed Passenger Locator Form shall be understood to mean submission in a form which allows the unambiguous identification of the holder and verification of the completed data; the electronic Passenger Location Form is available on the website www.prijezdovyformular.cz; the personal data processed above the framework of Section 79(1) of Act No. 258/2000 Coll. are travel document number, nationality, e-mail address and telephone number; by completing and sending the Passenger Locator Form, entry into the territory of the Czech Republic, information related to the person's stay abroad (country visited) and the method of arrival in the Czech Republic, as well as information on the place of stay in the Czech Republic, is notified to the Regional Public Health Office competent according to the place of residence or the place of stay reported by remote access; the data retention period is 3 months from the date of sending the Passenger Locator Form; viewing of the database of Passenger Locator Forms is possible in accordance with Section 79(1) of the Act on Public Health Protection by employees of the Regional Public Health Offices, the Section for Protection and Promotion of Public Health of the Ministry of Health and the Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic, this being for the purpose of activities aimed at preventing or minimizing the importation of COVID-19 into the Czech Republic or preventing or minimizing its further spread, in particular for the purpose of case detection for sample sequencing, tracing, imposition of penalties for breaches of obligations in particular under this Protective Measure, and the collection of anonymized statistical data and their analysis;

3. that the result of a test to determine the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus or its antigen shall be understood to mean:
 - a) in the case of a test to determine the presence of the antigen of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, written confirmation issued by a person authorized to perform the test in the country in which it was performed, proving a negative rapid antigen test (RAT) result no more than 24 hours after the date of performance of the antigen test and is a test included in the common and updated list of RAT tests established on the basis of the Council Recommendation of 21 January 2021 on a common framework for the use and validation of rapid antigen tests and mutual recognition of COVID-19 test results in the EU (2021/C 24/01),
 - b) in the case of a test to determine the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus (RT-PCR), written confirmation issued by a person authorized to perform the test in the country in which it was performed, proving a negative RT-PCR test result no more than 72 hours after the date of performance of the RT-PCR test;
if it is a test performed in a territory which is subject to the European Union Regulation on the EU COVID Digital Certificate¹ or in the territory of a third country for which an implementing act was adopted pursuant to the European Union Regulation on the EU COVID Digital Certificate, the result will only be proven by a certificate of the test issued in accordance with the European Union Regulation on the COVID Digital Certificate²;
4. that a vaccinated person with a national certificate proving that a course of vaccination has been administered shall be understood to mean a person who presents a valid national certificate proving that a course of vaccination against COVID-19 has been administered, issued in accordance with the European Union Regulation on the EU COVID Digital Certificate³, provided that at least 14 days have elapsed since the completion of the course of vaccination and, in the case of a person who has reached the age of 18, also no more than 270 days or such a person has been vaccinated with a booster dose, and has no symptoms of COVID-19;
5. that a vaccinated person with a national certificate proving that a course of vaccination has been completed shall be understood to mean a person who presents a valid national certificate proving that a course of vaccination against COVID-19 has been completed in accordance with point III.6 or III.7, provided that at least 14 days have elapsed since the completion of the course of vaccination and, in the case of a person who has reached the age of 18, also no more than 270 days or such a person has been vaccinated with a booster dose, and has no symptoms of COVID-19, if the person was vaccinated with:
 - a) a medicinal product containing a COVID-19 vaccine granted market authorization under Regulation (EC) No. 726/2004, or
 - b) a medicinal product manufactured in accordance with a patent for a medicinal product pursuant to subpara. i), if this medicinal product has been approved by the World Health Organization for emergency use; the list of products referred to in subpara. a) and b) is published at the website of the Ministry of Health,
6. that national certificate proving that a course of vaccination has been completed refers to written confirmation issued at least in the English language by an authorized entity operating in a third country, which is not a country

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 acceptance of interoperable COVID-19 vaccination, test and recovery certificates (EU Digital COVID Certificate) to facilitate free movement during the COVID-19 pandemic.

² Regulation (EU) 2021/953 of the European Parliament and of the Council

Regulation (EU) 2021/954 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2021 on a framework for the issuance, verification and acceptance of interoperable COVID-19 vaccination, test and recovery certificates (EU Digital COVID Certificate) with regard to third-country nationals legally staying or residing in the territories of Member States during the COVID-19 pandemic

³ Regulation (EU) 2021/953 of the European Parliament and of the Council

Regulation (EU) 2021/954 of the European Parliament and of the Council

issuing the certificate referred to in III.7, and is published in the list of recognized national certificates on the website of the Ministry of Health; written confirmation must include details of the person who has been vaccinated, the type of vaccine administered, the date of administration of the vaccine, identification of the entity which issued the certificate and

- a) these data can be verified by remote access directly from the written confirmation, or
- b) this concerns a third country where vaccination is performed using a medicinal product specified in point III.5, vaccination coverage rates are higher than in the Czech Republic, the given country provides credible and verifiable pandemic data and cooperates in the framework of international organizations in the fight against the pandemic;

7. that national certificate proving that a course of vaccination has been completed also refers to a certificate proving that a course of vaccination has been completed issued to the vaccinated person in accordance with point III.5 by an authorized entity operating in a third country, for which an implementing act has been adopted pursuant to the European Union Regulation on the EU digital certificate COVID⁴ and which is also published in the list of national certificates on the website of the Ministry of Health;
8. that a person who has contracted COVID-19 is deemed to be a person who presents a certificate that he/she has contracted COVID-19 issued in accordance with the European Union Regulation on the COVID Digital Certificate⁵ or by an authorised entity operating in a third country for which an implementing act was adopted under the European Union Regulation on the EU COVID Digital Certificate⁶, and at least 11 days, but no more than 180 days have elapsed from the first positive result of an RT-PCR test for determination of the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus; if the certificate was issued by a third country, a specimen of it must be published in the list of national certificates on the website of the Ministry of Health, which is identical to the list specified under point III.7;
9. that a person who has contracted COVID-19 is also deemed to be a holder of a diplomatic note issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; such holders can be citizens of the Czech Republic and their co-travelling family members with an issued temporary residence permit for the territory of the Czech Republic, citizens of the European Union with an issued certificate of temporary residence in the territory of the Czech Republic or foreign nationals with a permanent residence permit for the territory of the Czech Republic issued by the Czech Republic, certifying documented completed isolation due to COVID-19 in the country of departure before their entry into the territory of the Czech Republic; a diplomatic note is not usually issued earlier than 14 days after the first positive result of an RT-PCR test for detection of the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and it cannot be used for purposes of the applications referred to in point I.10 and entry as referred to in point II.1,
10. that a citizen of a third country is a foreign national, except for a citizen of the European Union and a foreign national within the meaning of Section 1(3) of Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic and on the Amendment of Certain Acts, as amended,
11. that for the purposes of this Protective Measure, Member States of the European Union are deemed to include, in addition to the Member States of the European Union, the Principality of Andorra, the Republic of Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Principality of Monaco, the Kingdom of Norway, the Republic of San Marino, the Swiss Confederation and the Vatican City State; all other countries are deemed to be third countries;

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2021/953 of the European Parliament and of the Council

⁵ Regulation (EU) 2021/953 of the European Parliament and of the Council

⁶ Regulation (EU) 2021/953 of the European Parliament and of the Council

the surname and date of birth or number of the travel document of the specific addressee; written confirmation in electronic format cannot be submitted in the form of a text message;

13. that the holders of a diplomatic note on the impossibility of taking a test for detection of the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in the country of departure can be citizens of the Czech Republic and their co-travelling family members with an issued temporary residence permit for the territory of the Czech Republic, citizens of the European Union with an issued certificate of temporary residence in the territory of the Czech Republic, foreign nationals with a permanent residence permit for the territory of the Czech Republic issued by the Czech Republic and workers servicing critical infrastructure whose performance of activities is in the interest of the Czech Republic,
14. that if an embassy or consulate of the Czech Republic is accredited for multiple countries, then the current inclusion of a country on a list of countries or territories with a low, medium, high or very high risk of incidence of COVID-19 is decisive for the acceptance and processing of visa applications and residence permit applications from such a country;
15. that individual transport is a journey by such means of transport in which persons who are members of the same household are being transported at a given moment,
16. that the vaccination rate in the Czech Republic is published here: <https://www.mzcr.cz/tiskove-centrum/datove-tiskove-zpravy-ke-covid-19/>.

II.

Effective from 12:00 a.m. of 18 March 2022, the Protective Measure of the Ministry of Health of 14 February 2022, Ref. No. MZDR 705/2022-7/MIN/KAN, is cancelled.

III.

This Protective Measure comes into effect on the date it is issued.

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