



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

Prague, 20 March 2020

Ref. No.: 12591/2020-1/OES

MZDRX019K9QB

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 amending certain related acts, as amended (hereinafter referred to as “Act No. 258/2000 Coll.”), orders, proceeding pursuant to Section 69(1)(i) and (2) of Act No. 258/2000 Coll., in protecting the population and preventing the occurrence and spread of the COVID-19 disease caused by the new SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, this Extraordinary Measure:

I.

- 1. All persons engaged in medical professions pursuant to Act No. 95/2004 Coll., on the conditions for obtaining and recognition of professional competence and specialised competence to engage in the medical profession of a physician, dentist, and pharmacist, as amended, and pursuant to Act No. 96/2004 Coll., on the conditions for obtaining and recognition of competence to engage in a paramedical profession and for engaging in activities related to the provision of medical care and amending certain related acts (Act on Paramedical Professions), as amended (hereinafter referred to as “Healthcare Professional”) are ordered, in the event that they discover that they had been directly exposed to a person in whom the COVID-19 was confirmed, without appropriate personal protective equipment (hereinafter referred to as “High-risk Exposure”) to inform their employer – healthcare service provider – thereof without undue delay.**
- 2. All healthcare service providers are ordered to adhere to the following rules:**
 - Should a healthcare service provider ascertain that a healthcare professional providing medical services on behalf of the healthcare service provider has been subject to high-risk exposure, the healthcare service provider shall decide whether the performance of work by the healthcare professional concerned is essential for ensuring the provision of medical services by the provider;**
 - If the performance of work by the healthcare professional concerned is not essential for ensuring the provision of medical services by the provider, the healthcare service provider shall inform the public health authority having territorial competence, which shall impose a state of quarantine on the healthcare professional;**

- If the performance of work by the healthcare professional concerned is essential for ensuring the provision of medical services by the provider, the healthcare services provider and the healthcare professional shall proceed in line with paragraph 3. The healthcare service provider shall report the fact to the public health authority having territorial competence.
3. All healthcare professionals not manifesting clinical symptoms who have been subject to high-risk exposure are ordered to adhere to the following rules:
 - The healthcare professional shall work with an FFP3-class respirator without an exhale valve for 14 days;
 - The healthcare professional shall use a single respirator for a maximum of 8 hours;
 - For resting and eating at the healthcare facility, the healthcare professional shall use a room in which no other persons are present;
 - The healthcare professional shall work in such a work mode as to minimise his exposure to other workers and patients to whom he is not providing medical services;
 - The healthcare professional shall limit his movement about the healthcare facility to the maximum degree practicable;
 - Immediately prior to starting his work each day, the healthcare professional shall take his bodily temperature and inform his superior about the temperature reading and his present health status and any medical difficulties;
 - Within 5 days of the high-risk exposure, the healthcare professional shall undergo a nasopharynx swab with an RT-PCR examination for SARS-CoV-2 and a rapid capillary blood test for the presence of IgM and IgG antibodies;
 - In the event of a negative outcome of both examinations, the healthcare professional shall carry on in his work and, within 14 days of his high-risk exposure, he shall undergo a second nasopharynx swab with an RT-PCR examination for SARS-CoV-2 and a rapid capillary blood test for the presence of IgM and IgG antibodies;
 - In the event of a negative outcome of both examinations, the healthcare professional shall carry on in his work in his regular mode of work.
 4. All healthcare service providers are ordered to ensure conditions for healthcare professionals who have been subject to high-risk exposure, such as to enable those healthcare professionals to comply with the rules referred to above.
 5. Should any clinical symptoms of the COVID-19 disease be detected in the healthcare professional within 14 days of his high-risk exposure or should any of the tests performed yield a positive result, the healthcare service provider shall inform the competent public health authority, which shall impose a state of quarantine on the healthcare professional.
 6. In the case of healthcare professionals who are not in an employment relationship with the healthcare service provider, e.g., who themselves are healthcare service providers, the above rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

II.

This Extraordinary Measure shall take effect on 21 March 2020.

Rationale:

The Extraordinary Measure has been issued in connection with the adverse development of the epidemiological situation in terms of the occurrence of the COVID-19 disease, caused by the novel coronavirus designated as SARS-CoV-2 in the Czech Republic.

This Extraordinary Measure sets out the organisation of the quarantine of healthcare professionals who have been exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 case. The objective of the measure is to ensure the provision of necessary healthcare services in an extraordinary epidemiological situation and to minimise the impact of the absence of a greater number of healthcare professionals due to quarantine.

Cases when healthcare professionals have been directly exposed to a person in whom the COVID-19 disease has been confirmed without appropriate personal protective equipment cannot be ruled out. The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends that healthcare professionals caring for infectious patients who have been directly exposed to them use the following protective equipment: protective coat, gloves, surgical mask, and eye protection. The use of respirators (N95, FFP2, or similar standards) is only recommended by WHO in cases of medical or similar staff who may be directly exposed to contaminated aerosol (e.g., medical examinations or interventions, such as tracheal intubation, tracheostomy, bronchoscopy, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, etc.)

Immediate implementation of the Measure is required due to the daily rise in the numbers of infected persons in the Czech Republic, and consequently, this Extraordinary Measure shall take effect on 21 March 2020.

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Mgr. et Mgr. Adam Vojtěch, MHA
Minister of Health

Signed electronically

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20 March 2020

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127565099-202840-200320191640

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