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., in order to protect the population and prevent the occurrence and spread of the COVID-19 disease caused by the new SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus:

I.

Effective from 20 April 2020, all public authorities and administrative authorities (hereinafter referred to as the “authorities”) are ordered to maintain rules of operation on all of their workplaces in connection with the state of emergency declared under Government Resolution No. 194 of 12 March 2020, pursuant to Act No. 69/2020 Coll., consisting of:

1. the restriction of personal contact between state employees, employees and other officials (hereinafter referred to as the “employees”) and the addressees of public administration (applicants, other parties to administrative proceedings) and other external persons (hereinafter referred to as the “clients/public”) to the essential extent; the restriction of contacts will be conducted primarily as follows:

   a) to prefer written, electronic or telephone contact rather than personal contact in all cases possible, while also allowing personal contact for clients during the office hours valid before the declaration of the state of emergency,

   b) during personal contact:

      - by adopting measures to prevent direct contact without a barrier of up to 2 meters, if possible,
      - by creating conditions for maintaining a distance of at least 2 meters between persons, if possible, to prevent the congregation of people in the corridors or waiting areas (e.g. if seats are close to each other, it is necessary to allow the use of only every second one, e.g. with a “No sitting” sign; the seats must not be facing each other at a distance of less than 2 meters),
      - by placing stands with hand disinfectant in the client areas,
- by using protective respiratory equipment (nose, mouth), such as a respirator, face mask, mouthpiece, scarf, shawl or other device to prevent the spread of droplets;
- by implementing heightened hygienic measures at the place of operation (disinfection of surfaces, regular disinfection of handles, elevator buttons, railings and other places which are commonly touched by hands, including shared writing utensils),

c) by accepting documents from the clients/public preferably via electronic communication, if possible, and informing the clients/public of this fact by suitable means,

d) if there is contact with the employees of other authorities and institutions, meetings are conducted preferably via remote means; if they are conducted in person, then under heightened hygienic measures,

e) the foregoing measures will apply as appropriate to internal contact between employees within the authority, including maintaining the minimum recommended distance when consuming food and beverages without wearing protective respiratory equipment,

2. by ensuring the operation of the body so that any quarantine measures ordered with respect to some employees do not threaten the actionability of the body (e.g., alternating separate groups of employees, remote working).

II.

This extraordinary measure takes effect on the date of its issue.

Rationale: Under the extraordinary measure of the Ministry of Health Ref. No. MZDR 12745/2020-5/MIN/KAN of 30 March 2020 (hereinafter referred to as the “extraordinary measure”), all public authorities and administrative authorities were ordered, effective from 6:00 a.m. on 1 April 2020 to 6:00 a.m. on 11 April 2020, to preserve limited operations with respect to the declared state of emergency. The limited operations were reflected in shorter opening hours, a restriction of work with a focus on agendas, the execution of which must be ensured unconditionally and continuously, and on the performance of tasks of the government of the Czech Republic directed towards achieving the objectives of the state of emergency. Furthermore, rules were defined to limit personal contact between employees and the addressees of public administration.

An evaluation of the adopted measures shows that the uncontrolled spreading of the coronavirus epidemic was successfully prevented. Given the favourable development of the situation, certain existing measures concerning the operation of public authorities have been relaxed.

Public authorities will renew their activity in the standard scope, while simultaneously observing heightened hygienic requirements. Office hours will be renewed in full scope, so that the public can use their services to arrange official matters.

Written and electronic contact will continue to be preferred. During personal contact, heightened hygienic measures will be observed, which are essential to limit the spread of the COVID-19 disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus in the Czech Republic. The coronavirus is transmitted from person to person in close contact. It is known as a droplet infection, which is airborne. Most frequently, it affects the mucous membranes of the upper and lower respiratory track and the conjunctives. The incubation period is two to fourteen days. The most common ways for the virus to enter the human body are the mucous membranes, meaning the mouth, nose and also the eyes. Therefore, the proposed measures aim to prevent this means of spreading the virus.

The aim of this measure is to renew the activities of public and administrative authorities in their full
scope and to define such rules so as to maximally limit the community transmission of the COVID-19 disease.

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Minister for Health
Signed electronically