



Prague, 10 April 2020

Ref. No.: MZDR 15190/2020-5/MIN/KAN

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.

1. The free movement of persons throughout the Czech Republic is prohibited, with the exception of:

- a) travel to work and to perform business or other similar activities,
- b) essential travel to visit family or close persons,
- c) essential travel to procure basic life needs (e.g. shopping for groceries, medicine and medical devices, hygienic products, cosmetics or other drug store goods, food and other animal supplies), including the needs of relatives and close persons, ensuring child care, ensuring animal care, using the necessary financial and postal services, refueling, waste disposal,
- d) essential travel to secure the needs and services pursuant to letter c) for another person (e.g. volunteers, neighborly assistance),
- e) travel to healthcare facilities and social service facilities, including the necessary accompaniment of relatives and close persons, and ensuring veterinary care,
- f) travel for the purpose of arranging urgent official matters, including arranging the necessary accompaniment of relatives and close persons,
- g) performance of occupation or activities which serve to ensure
 1. security, internal order and the resolution of the crisis situation,
 2. the protection of health, provision of healthcare or social care, including volunteer activities,
 3. individual spiritual care and services,
 4. public transit and other infrastructure,
 5. services for citizens including supply and delivery services,
 6. veterinary care,
- h) activities in nature or parks,
- i) travelling back to one's dwelling,
- j) funerals.

2. It is ordered:

- a) that persons residing in the Czech Republic limit their movements in publicly accessible places to the necessary period of time and to stay in their dwelling, except for the cases listed in point 1 letters (a) through (j),
- b) to limit contact with other persons to the necessary period of time,
- c) to stay in publicly accessible places in groups of maximally two persons, except for household members, the performance of an occupation, business or similar activities and attendance at funerals, and to maintain a distance of at least 2

- meters from other persons, if possible,
- d) to consume food, including beverages, on public premises at their place of sale only in cases of an essential need for refreshment, if these foods are intended for direct consumption, and in such case to move off to a distance of at least 10 meters from the store, service window, etc. to consume them.

3. The prohibition of free movement pursuant to paragraph 1 does not apply to sports at outdoor sports grounds, in parks, in nature or other publicly accessible areas, provided the following conditions are met:

- protection of the respiratory passages (nose, mouth) to prevent the spread of droplets is required, except for outdoor sports grounds where the persons participating in the sports, or groups of persons doing sports together are separated from other natural persons by a physical obstacle (e.g. wall or fence) or by a distance of minimally 2 meters,
- maximally two persons do sports together, except for household members; otherwise a distance of minimally 2 meters must be maintained from other persons while doing sports collectively,
- no related indoor sports grounds are used, in particular shared changing rooms, washrooms, showers and similar amenities, at which the aforementioned conditions are not met,

including travel for the purpose of such sports.

4. This extraordinary measure is issued with effect from 0:00 a.m. on 11 April 2020 until the end of the state of emergency.

II.

Effective from 0:00 a.m. of 11 March 2020, the extraordinary measure of 6 April 2020, Ref. No. MZDR 15190/2020-4/MIN/KAN is repealed.

III.

This Extraordinary Measure shall take effect on the day of its issue.

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 Europe.

Given the current spread of the COVID-19 disease in the Czech Republic and in most countries around the world, it is necessary to prevent the further spread of the COVID-19 disease, which the World Health Organisation declared a pandemic on 11 March 2020.

Since 1 March 2020, when the COVID-19 disease was first proven in a patient in the Czech Republic, the number of cases has grown to 2,657 (as at 28 March 2020). The daily increase in the number of patients newly proven to have the COVID-19 disease has exceeded 200 in recent days (25 March: 291, 26 March: 259, 27 March: 373, 28 March: 262).

This Measure is an important prerequisite for preventing the spread of the COVID-19 disease caused by the novel SARS-CoV2 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. These places are an open door for the virus.

The aim of this measure is to restrict the free movement of persons and contact with other persons, in order to maximally limit the community transmission of the COVID-19 disease.

The extraordinary measure of 30 March 2020, Ref. No. MZDR 12745/2020-4/MIN/KAN, which prohibits the free movement of persons throughout the Czech Republic, with certain exceptions, is supplemented with another exception, so as to enable the performance of sports at outdoor sports grounds, in parks, in nature, etc., but always while observing the key measures to eliminate the spread of the COVID-19 disease caused by the novel SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus.

If all the stipulated conditions are met, a number of sports can be engaged in, particularly:

- running,
- walking,
- cycling,
- gymnastics,
- outdoor skating, on ice or on roller-skates, and skateboarding,
- horseback riding,
- golf with maximally two persons in a group of players (flight),
- tennis, table tennis, badminton, volleyball (including beach) and football tennis, always with maximally two players on each side of the court,
- skiing and snowboarding,
- water sports such as yachting, canoeing, rowing and windsurfing, always in groups of maximally two persons,
- sports shooting,
- martial arts, power sports and wrestling,
- sports flying,

exclusively at outdoor sports grounds.

Healthy physical activity, especially as a part of the aforementioned sports, contributes to maintaining good health among people, which in turn helps prevent the occurrence of illness, including COVID-19. However, even at this phase of the spread of the COVID-19 disease in the Czech Republic, it is essential to observe strict rules of limiting social contact and spreading droplets.

An exemption from the order to wear personal respiratory protection (of the nose, mouth), which prevents the spread of droplets, is permitted in the case of sports at outdoor sports grounds, if the group of participants is separated from other participants and groups thereof or other persons by a certain physical barrier (e.g. tennis, football tennis or volleyball courts separated by a fence), or if the participants are at least 2 meters away from other persons. It is apparent that when doing sports, breathing typically becomes heavier and a mask or respirator impedes breathing. In the case of water sports, wearing a mask could actually be dangerous or life and health threatening.

It is ordered to consume foods on public premises at their place of sale only in essential cases and at least 10 meters from the place of sale. Because people must remove their masks or other protective respiratory equipment in order to consume foods, it is necessary to stipulate further conditions to prevent situations which increase the risk of the community transmission of the COVID-19 disease.

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Minister of Health