



Prague, 14 April 2020

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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. All persons at social service providers, at facilities for persons with medical disabilities, at senior citizen homes and homes with a special regime, and at social service providers providing alleviating services in the form of social services (hereinafter referred to as “social service providers”), who perform

- a) medical occupations pursuant to Act No. 95/2004 Coll., on the Conditions for Obtaining and Recognizing Professional Qualifications and Specialized Qualifications for the Medical Profession of a Doctor, Dentist and Pharmacist, as amended, or Act no. 96/2004 Coll., On Conditions of the Acquisition and Recognition of Qualifications for the Pursuit of Non-medical Healthcare Professions and for Activities Related to the Provision of Healthcare and on amendments to some related acts (the Act on Non-medical Healthcare Professions), as amended (hereinafter referred to as “healthcare workers”),
- b) basic activities in the provision of social services pursuant to Act No. 108/2006 Coll., on Social Services, as amended (hereinafter referred to as “social service workers”),

are ordered, if they discover that they have come into direct contact with a person that has been diagnosed with the COVID-19 disease without having adequate personal protective equipment (hereinafter referred to as a “high-risk exposure”), to inform their employer - social service provider - of this fact immediately.

2. All social service providers pursuant to paragraph 1 are ordered:

- i. if it is discovered that a healthcare worker or social service worker, who provides healthcare services or basic activities in the provision of social services at its

facility, came into high-risk exposure, to immediately decide whether the performance of work by the given healthcare worker or social service worker is essential to ensure the provision of social or healthcare services by this provider,

- ii. if the performance of work by the healthcare worker or social service worker, who came into high-risk exposure, is not essential for ensuring the provision of social or healthcare services by this provider, to inform the locally competent public health protection authority, which will impose quarantine measures on the healthcare worker or social service worker,
- iii. if the performance of work by the healthcare worker or social service worker, who came into high-risk exposure and does not have clinical symptoms of the COVID-19 disease, is essential for ensuring the provision of healthcare or social services by this provider, to ensure conditions for the performance of work by this worker in accordance with the rules under paragraph 3. The social service provider will immediately report the performance of work by the said worker to the locally competent public health protection authority.

3. All healthcare workers and social service workers without clinical symptoms, who came into high-risk exposure, but with respect to whom the provider has decided that the performance of work by the given healthcare worker or social service worker is essential to ensure the provision of services by this provider, are ordered to obey the following rules:

- the worker works with a FFP3 class respirator without an exhalation valve, or an FFP2 class respirator is a FFP3 class respirator is not available, for a period of 14 days,
- the healthcare worker uses a single respirator for a maximum of 6 hours,
- during rest and meals at the social service provider's facility, the healthcare worker uses a room in which no other persons are present,
- the worker works in such a mode so as to minimise contact with other workers and persons to whom they are not providing healthcare services, or for whom they are not performing basic activities in the provision of social services,
- the worker limits their movement around the social service provider's facility to the essential degree,
- immediately prior to starting work every day, the worker measures their body temperature and informs their superior about the temperature reading and presents their health status and any medical difficulties,
- after 5 days from coming into high-risk exposure, the worker will undergo a swab from their nasopharynx with RT-PCR testing for SARS-CoV-2,
- after 10 days from coming into high-risk exposure, the worker will undergo a rapid test of capillary blood for the presence of IgM and IgG antibodies,
- if the results of both tests are negative, the worker will continue to perform work and after 14 days from coming into high-risk exposure, they will undergo another swab from their nasopharynx with RT-PCR testing for SARS-CoV-2 and

simultaneously a second rapid test of capillary blood for the presence of IgM and IgG antibodies,

- **In the event of a negative outcome of both examinations, the professional shall carry on in his work in his regular mode of work.**

- 4. Should any clinical symptoms of the COVID-19 disease be detected in the healthcare worker or social service worker within 14 days of his high-risk exposure or should any of the tests performed yield a positive result, the social service provider is ordered to inform the locally competent public health authority, which shall impose quarantine measures on the healthcare worker or social service worker.**
- 5. In the case of healthcare workers or social service workers who are not in an employment relationship with the social service provider, e.g. who themselves are social service providers or healthcare services providers, the above rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.**

II.

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

Rationale:

This 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 workers and social service workers who have been exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 case. The objective of the measure is to ensure the provision of the necessary social services in an extraordinary epidemiological situation and to minimise the impact of the absence of a greater number of social service workers due to quarantine measures.

Cases where a healthcare worker or social service worker has 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 e.g. healthcare workers 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 the date of issue.

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

Signed electronically