



Prague, 15 September 2020

Ref. No. MZDR 39255/2020-1/MIN/KAN

MZDRX01BTSNU

EMERGENCY MEASURE

In its capacity as the competent administrative authority, pursuant to Section 80 (1) (g) of Act No. 258/2000 Coll., on Protection of Public Health and amendment of certain related acts, as amended (hereinafter referred to only as “Act No. 258/2000 Coll.”), the Ministry of Health hereby **orders** this Emergency 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 17 September 2020, all entities operating laboratories performing the testing of specimens for the presence of the new SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus with the aid of the RT-PCR test are ordered to test the specimen and inform the patient of the result of the test without delay, at most within 48 hours of receipt of the specimen for testing, specifically through a text message sent to a mobile phone or by e-mail, if the patient has provided a mobile phone number or e-mail address for this purpose. If the patient is informed that he/she has tested positive for the presence of the new SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus or that the result of the test is ambiguous, he/she must also be sent a recommendation to contact the GP or paediatric GP with whom he/she is registered for the provision of healthcare services, and also information on how to proceed in order to avoid the further spread of the disease. If the presence of the new SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus is proven, the patient will be instructed to remain in isolation, e.g. via a link to a website which contains this information.

II.

This Emergency Measure shall take effect on the date of its issue.

Rationale:

This Emergency Measure is issued in relation to the implementation of measures adopted to limit the spread of the COVID-19 disease caused by the new coronavirus identified as SARS-CoV-2 in the Czech Republic.

This Emergency Measure determines the timeliness, method and minimum scope of the provision of information provided by laboratories performing diagnostics of the infectious COVID-19 disease in such a way that all of the people being tested receive information as quickly as possible and, in the event of a positive or ambiguous result, are able to take steps to limit the further spread of the COVID-19 disease as soon as possible, or to inform people they have been in serious epidemiological contact with, and to provide their cooperation to the public health protection authorities.

This Emergency Measure is issued in order to specify and consolidate the practical application of Section 62 of the Act on the Protection of Public Health, according to which any party providing care (including providers of healthcare services) that performs the laboratory testing of biological material that identifies an infectious disease, suspicion of such a disease or death from it, is obliged to ensure the immediate implementation of the first necessary measures to limit the spread of the disease according to the type and scope of the healthcare services it provides.

In view of the type of healthcare or services provided by the laboratories, it is clear that a fundamental measure which they may adopt in this respect is the provision of information to the patient about his/her having tested positive and regarding the appropriate behaviour the patient should take to prevent the further spread of the disease. First and foremost, this concerns a recommendation that such a patient should contact the GP or paediatric GP with whom he/she is registered for the provision of healthcare services, as well as communication of the basic rules of behaviour to prevent the further spread of the disease.

If any delay occurs in communication, in particular of a positive result of testing, there is a risk that people who are being tested, in particular those not exhibiting any symptoms of the COVID-19 disease, may further spread this disease.

Mgr. et Mgr. Adam Vojtěch, MHA

Health Minister

Signed electronically

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Electronic signature - 15 September 2020
Signatory's certificate:
Name: Mgr. et Mgr. Adam Vojtěch, MHA Issued
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