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 this Extraordinary Measure, proceeding pursuant to Section 69(1)(i) and (2) of Act No. 258/2000 Coll., to protect the population and prevent the occurrence and spread of COVID-19 caused by the novel SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus:

Effective from 18 December 2020 until 15 January 2021, all healthcare service providers included in the network of antigen testing centres (hereinafter “Antigen Testing Centres”) are ordered

a) to conduct examinations to determine the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus antigen using POC antigen tests among all persons that participate in public health insurance in the Czech Republic and which, given the current epidemiological situation, are considered to be the focal point of outbreaks (hereinafter a “tested person”), if they request the performance of an antigen test and present an insuree’s card or substitute document, but no more than once every 5 days; testing is not performed for persons who have been isolated due to the COVID-19 disease minimally in the scope pursuant to the valid extraordinary measure of the Ministry of Health concerning the ordering of isolation and quarantine, and in whose case more than 90 days have not passed since the first RT-PCR test with a positive result, and among persons who took a RT-PCR test or POC antigen test with a negative result in the past 5 days;

b) to perform a confirmation test to determine the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus using the RT-PCR method on a tested person that does not have clinical symptoms of COVID-19, but was positively tested using a POC antigen test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus antigen; in addition, a tested person will be ordered to undergo a confirmation RT-PCR test without delay; in the event that a confirmation test cannot be performed at the Antigen Testing Centre, the centre will arrange the completion of an electronic request slip to determine the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus using the RT-PCR method in the Infectious Disease Information System (ISIN) and inform the tested person about the ordering of a confirmation test.

II.

Effective from 18 December 2020, all healthcare service providers listed under Art. 1 are ordered to inform the locally competent public health protection authorities of the fact that a tested person with clinical symptoms of COVID-19 disease has tested positive in the POC antigen test, or that a tested person without clinical symptoms of COVID-19 disease has tested
positive in the POC antigen test and then underwent a confirmation RT-PCR test pursuant to Art. I(b) for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus with a positive result.

III.

All tested persons pursuant to Art. I who tested positive in the POC antigen test, or their statutory representatives, are ordered, immediately after learning the examination result, to report this fact to their registering healthcare service provider in the field of general medicine, general medicine for children and adolescents or the healthcare provider with which their employer has concluded a contract on the provision of occupational healthcare services. In the event this fact cannot be notified to any of the providers stated in the first sentence, this fact will be notified to the regional public health authority or the Public Health Authority of the City of Prague in accordance with local jurisdiction.

IV.

Effective from 18 December 2020, all healthcare service providers who perform preventive examinations to determine the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus antigen using POC antigen tests pursuant to Art. I are ordered to report, electronically and without undue delay, information about every POC antigen test result, or subsequently performed RT-PCR confirmation test pursuant to Art. I(b) for stipulating the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in a tested person pursuant to Art. I, to the Information System of Infectious Diseases (ISIN).

V.

All healthcare service providers, regional public health authorities and the Public Health Authority of the City of Prague that notified a tested person in accordance with Art. III are ordered, with effect from 18 December 2020, to order isolation

a) of a tested person who tested positive in a POC antigen test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, who also has clinical symptoms of the COVID-19 disease; the extraordinary measure of the Ministry of Health concerning the ordering of isolation in the case of a positive RT-PCR test result for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus shall apply as appropriate for ordering and terminating isolation;

b) of a tested person who does not have clinical symptoms of COVID-19, but was positively tested by a POC antigen test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 antigen and subsequently tested positive for the presence of SARS-CoV-2 in a confirmation test using the RT-PCR method, in accordance with the procedure under the extraordinary measure
of the Ministry of Health governing the ordering of isolation for a positive result of the RT-PCR test for the presence of SARS-CoV-2.

VI.

For the purposes of Act No. 48/1997 Coll., on Public Health Insurance and on the amendment and supplementation of certain related laws, as amended, this measure is considered to be a measure against infectious disease pursuant to Section 30(1) of the same act.

VII.

This extraordinary measure comes into force on its issue date and expires on 15 January 2021.

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 new coronavirus designated as SARS-CoV-2 in Europe and especially in the Czech Republic. This measure is an important condition to prevent the spread of COVID-19 caused by the novel SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus in the territory of the Czech Republic and it is also taken, inter alia, for the purpose of enabling the gradual relaxation of extraordinary measures adopted in connection with the COVID-19 epidemic in the population.

The measure is directed primarily at the maximum prevention of the transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus infection, in particular through the timely detection of symptom-free infected persons, by separating healthy people from those who are ill and adhering to necessary hygienic and epidemiological measures, including the use of adequate protective respiratory equipment.
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