



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
Palackého náměstí 375/4, 128 01 Prague 2

Prague, 21 December 2020, Ref. No.:
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PROTECTIVE MEASURE

The Ministry of Health, as the competent administrative authority, pursuant to Section 80(1)(h) 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 Protective Measure, proceeding pursuant to Section 68(1) of Act No. 258/2000 Coll., in order to liquidate the risk of the occurrence of the COVID-19 disease caused by the new SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus:

I.

Effective from 12:00 p.m. of 21 December 2020 until the repealing of this protective measure, but at latest until 11:59 p.m. of 31 December 2020, all airline companies operating direct flights from all airports in the territory of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with passengers onboard to all airports in the territory of the Czech Republic are prohibited to operate these flights, with the exception of emergency flights, repatriation flights and flights which serve to save lives.

II.

This protective measure comes into effect on the date of its issue.

Rationale:

The protective measure is issued with regard to the fact that in recent days, there has been a rapid increase in newly diagnosed cases of the COVID-19 disease in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (hereinafter "Great Britain"), especially in South East England. Genetic analyses have shown that the cause is a new strain of the SAR-CoV-2 virus, defined by multiple mutations of the spike proteins (deletion 69-70, deletion 144-145, N501Y, A570D, D614G, P681H, T716I, S982A, D1118H). Analyses to date have shown that this strain of the virus causes significantly higher contagion of the disease than the strain known to date and it is estimated that it has the potential to increase the R number by 0.4 or more with an estimated increased transmissibility of 70% (see the Threat Assessment Brief issued on 20 December 2020 by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control). This new variant has emerged at a time of travel and socializing among people in connection to the approaching Christmas holidays.

The aim of the protective measure is to create conditions to prevent the spread of this disease.

For the foregoing reasons, it is desirable to prohibit existing and potential new flight connections

from Great Britain to the Czech Republic for the stipulated period. The measure applies to all airline carriers operating direct flights from Great Britain to the Czech Republic.

This protective measure complies with Art. 21a(1) of Regulation (EC) No. 1008/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 September 2008 on the common rules for operating airline services in the Community.

This measure is an important prerequisite for preventing the further contagion and spread of the new, more serious strain of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus in the Czech Republic.

doc. MUDr. Jan Blatný, Ph.D.
Minister of Health

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