

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

Prague, 29 December 2020
Ref. No.: MZDR 60510/2020-3/MIN/KAN

MZDRX01DPXCW

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:

Direct flights from all airports within the territory of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to all airports within the territory of the Czech Republic with passengers on board the aircraft may, effective as of 12:00 p.m. on 1 January 2021 until the revocation of this Protective Measure, only be made if this concerns ambulance flights, repatriation flights, flights to save lives or flights with passengers who, before boarding the plane, submit confirmation from an accredited laboratory with the negative result of an antigen or RT-PCR test which was performed within the territory of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland no later than 72 hours before departure and who are:

- a) citizens of the Czech Republic with their usual place of residence in the Czech Republic or their family members accompanying them,
- b) citizens of the European Union with issued confirmation of temporary residence within the territory of the Czech Republic or with a permit for permanent residence within the territory of the Czech Republic or their family members accompanying them,
- c) holders of a valid long-term visa, long-term or permanent residence permit for the territory of the Czech Republic issued by the Czech Republic,
- d) other foreigners, if they are only in transit via the territory of the Czech Republic or transferring to a connected flight from the same airport within 12 hours of arrival.

Passengers must also meet the other conditions for entry to the territory of the Czech Republic in accordance with the respective Protective Measure of the Ministry of Health.^{1 2}

¹ As at 23 December 2020, this concerned the Protective Measure of 20 December 2020, Ref. No. MZDR 20599/2020- 45/MIN/KAN, published on the website of the Ministry of Health.

II.

This Protective Measure comes into effect on the date it is issued.

Rationale:

The Protective Measure is issued with regard to the fact that in recent days, there has been a sharp 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 strains 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 strain has emerged at a time of increased travel and socializing among people in connection with the Christmas holidays.

The aim of the Protective Measure is to create conditions to prevent the spread of this disease.

Due to the aforementioned reasons, it is advisable to impose certain conditions in relation to direct flights from Great Britain to the Czech Republic for the determined period of time. The measure applies to all airline carriers operating direct flights from Great Britain to the Czech Republic with passengers on board.

This Protective 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.

This Protective Measure takes into consideration the respective recommendations of the European Union². The primary objective of the restriction imposed is to ensure that people can return home, i.e. to their usual place of residence, or to allow them to transfer to a different flight.

Apart from the conditions specified in this Protective Measure, passengers on direct flights must also meet the other conditions of entry pursuant to the Protective Measure of the Ministry of Health, which determines these conditions in general - this for example relates to the definition of family members or obligations to be met on arrival. As at the issue date of this protective measure, this concerned the Protective Measure of the Ministry of Health of 20 December 2020, Ref. No. MZDR 20599/2020-45/MIN/KAN, published on the website of the Ministry of Health.




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² COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION of 2 on a coordinated approach to travel and transport in response to the SARS-COV-2.12.2020 variant observed in the United Kingdom

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