



Prague, 1 March
2021 Ref. No. MZDR 47828/2020-
14/MIN/KAN

MZDRX01EQ9CQ

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.

Effective from 2 March 2021, all healthcare service providers included in the network of antigen testing centres (hereinafter an “Antigen Testing Centre”) 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 insured party’s card or substitute document, but no more than once every 3 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 an RT-PCR test or POC antigen test with a negative result in the past 3 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 RT-PCR confirmation 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.

All providers of social services which provide social services in accordance with Act No. 108/2006 Coll., on Social Services, as amended, if this concerns homes for persons with a physical disability, retirement homes or homes operating a special regime and providers of social services providing respite care in a residential manner, are ordered, effective from 2 March 2021, using an employee who is a healthcare worker, or using a healthcare service provider with which they have concluded a contract on the provision of occupational healthcare services, or other healthcare service provider with which it concludes a contract on the provision of healthcare services for the purpose of performing antigen tests:

- 1) 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 who, given the current epidemiological situation, are considered to be the focal point of outbreaks (hereinafter a “tested person”), if this concerns the employees of these providers or their users of social services, and also, if the staffing options of the provider so allow, visitors to their users of social services and employees of the providers of social services, care services or personal assistance, if the above-mentioned persons request the performance of an antigen test and present an insured party’s card or substitute document, but no more than once every 3 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 an RT-PCR test or POC antigen test with a negative result in the past 3 days;
- 2) to immediately report a positive result of a POC antigen test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 antigen in a tested person to the registering provider of healthcare services in the field of general practical medicine, or in the field of paediatric practical medicine, or the Regional Public Health Authority or the Public Health Authority for the City of Prague (hereinafter referred to as the “Public Health Authority”) according to local jurisdiction for people who do not have a registering GP; this provider of healthcare services or Regional Public Health Authority will decide whether to order a confirmation test to determine the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus using the RT-PCR method for a tested person who does not have any clinical symptoms of the COVID- 19 disease, but who tested positive in the POC antigen test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus antigen, will inform the tested person that they have been ordered to take a confirmation test and ensure the completion of an electronic request for the determination of the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus using the RT-PCR method in the Infectious Disease Information System (ISIN); this tested person will also be ordered to take a confirmation RT-PCR test without delay.

III.

All providers of healthcare services which ascertain in accordance with Art. I or learn in accordance with Art. II (2) that a tested person with clinical symptoms of the COVID-19 disease has tested positive using the POC antigen test, or that a tested person without any clinical symptoms of the COVID-19 disease has tested positive using the POC antigen test

and was subsequently tested by means of an RT-PCR confirmation test in accordance with Art. I (b) for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus with a positive result, are ordered, effective from 2 March 2021, to immediately notify the public health protection authority with local jurisdiction of this fact.

IV.

All tested persons pursuant to Art. I and Art. II 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, paediatric general medicine 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 reported to any of the providers stated in the first sentence, this fact will be reported to the Regional Public Health Authority which holds jurisdiction.

V.

Effective from 2 March 2021, all healthcare and social 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 or Art. II 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) to determine the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in a tested person pursuant to Art. I, to the Information System of Infectious Diseases (ISIN).

VI.

All healthcare service providers and Regional Authorities that were notified by a tested person pursuant to Art. I or Art. II of the fact specified in Art. IV are ordered, with effect from 2 March 2021, 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 the COVID-19 disease, but who tested positive in a POC antigen test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus antigen, and who subsequently tested positive in an RT-PCR confirmation test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, this being via the procedure pursuant to 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.

VII.

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.

VIII.

This Extraordinary Measure repeals Extraordinary Measure of the Ministry of Health Ref. No. MZDR 47828/2020-10/MIN/KAN of 14 December 2020, Extraordinary Measure of the Ministry of Health Ref. No. MZDR 47828/2020-11/MIN/KAN of 7 January 2021 and Extraordinary Measure of the Ministry of Health Ref. No. MZDR 47828/2020-12/MIN/KAN of 28 January 2021.

IX.

This Extraordinary Measure takes effect on the date it is issued.

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 prerequisite for preventing the spread of the COVID-19 disease caused by the novel SARS-CoV2 coronavirus in the Czech Republic. This measure aims in particular to ensure the maximum possible prevention of transmission of infection by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, in particular via the timely detection of infected persons and separation of healthy persons from people who are ill. In view of the development of the epidemic situation and the occurrence of new mutations of the SARS-CoV-2 virus (VOC 202012/01, 501Y.V2 and the P.1 variant), as regards which there is justifiable suspicion that they caused greater incidence of the disease, a greater number of hospitalisations and greater pressure on the health systems in Great Britain, the Republic of South Africa and Brazil, the decision has been made to change the rules for reimbursement of the cost of antigen testing. For more details about the occurrence of mutations, see the ECDC report <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/covid-19-risk-assessment-spread-new-variants-concern-eueea-first-update>

In view of the need to continue performing antigen testing among providers of social services, the performance of this testing will from now on be allowed directly on-site with these providers and, subject to compliance with the determined conditions, it will be possible to request reimbursement of the cost of the work and material by the public health insurance company, this being in the manner determined in the antigen test centres. However, the scope of people who can take an antigen test among providers of social services will also be restricted, this being due to restriction of access by the public as a means of preventing this infectious disease being introduced into these facilities. The testing of employees and users

of social services, including visitors to these facilities, is therefore made possible mainly in locations where work is performed, or services provided, or visits made, the aim being to limit essential travel to antigen test centres if the test can be performed by a healthcare worker directly on site at the social service provider's facility. Antigen test centres are intended primarily for the antigen testing of the public.

In relation to the new announcement of a state of emergency, the period of effectiveness of the extraordinary measures is changed in such a way that they remain in force until repealed.

Doc. MUDr. Jan Blatný, Ph.D., undersigned
Minister of Health