



Prague, 8 March 2021

Ref. No.: MZDR 9807/2021-1/MIN/KAN



MZDRX01EVFIX

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, **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 from the further spread of the COVID-2 disease caused by the new SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus:

I.

Effective **from 12:00 a.m. on 9 March 2021 until the repeal** of this extraordinary measure, all entities operating laboratories which ensure the analysis of samples using RT-PCR tests for the presence of the novel SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, which when performing RT-PCR tests for the presence of the novel SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus identify any suspected or confirmed incidence of variants associated with these strains of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus: B.1.235 (“South African”), P1 (“Brazilian”) and B.1.1.7 (“British”), to report this fact immediately in the ISIN and at the request of the State Health Institution, to send the sample for confirmation analysis to the National Reference Laboratory for Influenza and Non-influenza Respiratory Viral Diseases (NRL SZU).

II.

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

Rationale:

This Emergency Measure is issued for the purpose of limiting the spread of serious variants of the coronavirus in the Czech Republic. Given the speed of the worldwide spread of new variants of SARS-CoV-2 and their impact on the epidemiological situation in the Czech Republic, it is necessary to immediately commence targeted screening of positive samples using the RT-PCR method, specific for the presence of mutations associated with the most severe variants of the virus. Furthermore, it will be the first level of national surveillance of the genetic variants of SARS-CoV-2 occurring in the Czech Republic; the next step will be the precise identification of the circulating variants using full-genome sequencing. This will be conducted at specialised

sequencing centers.

Given the current blanket spread of the B.1.1.7 variant in the Czech Republic, it is desirable to effectively seek samples bearing the E484K mutation associated with the B.1.235 (“South African”) and P1 (“Brazilian”) strains. The related methodical instructions are published on the pages of the National Reference Laboratory for Influenza and Non-influenza Respiratory Viral Diseases of the State Health Institute, and at <http://www.szu.cz/tema/prevence/laboratore>.

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