



Prague, 8 March 2021

Ref. No.: MZDR 40555/2020-5/MIN/KAN



MZDRX01EVEGE

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Effective from 12:00 a.m. on 9 March 2021 until this Extraordinary Measure is repealed, all healthcare service providers in the fields of general practical medicine or pediatric practical medicine, all regional public health authorities and the City of Prague Public Health Authority are ordered to act to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 epidemic in that they terminate isolation for persons in whom the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus variant 501.Y V2, SARS-CoV-2 strain: B.1.357 (the “South African” variant) after conducting a RT-PCR test for the presence of SARS-CoV-2 with a negative result at earliest after 14 days from sampling the first positive test.

II.

Effective from 12:00 a.m. on 9 March 2021 until this Extraordinary Measure is repealed, all healthcare service providers in the fields of general practical medicine or pediatric practical medicine, all regional public health authorities and the City of Prague Public Health Authority are ordered to act to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 epidemic, in that all persons who were found based on an epidemiological investigation to have been in close contact with a person who has a positive RT-PCR test result for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus variant 501.Y V2, SARS-CoV-2 strain: B.1.357

(“South African variant”) (hereinafter the “positively tested person”), shall terminate imposed quarantine measures after performing a RT-PCR test for the presence of SARS-CoV-2 virus with a negative result at the earliest after 14 days from their last contact with the positively tested person.

III.

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

Rationale:

Extraordinary Measure Ref. No. MZDR 40555/2020-4/MIN/KAN of 2 March 2021 stipulates the procedure for imposing isolation on all persons in whom the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus was identified, and the procedure for imposing quarantine or quarantine measures on persons who were in epidemiologically relevant contact with positive persons. Due to the rapid spread of the “South African variant”, about which there is insufficient information regarding the severity of the illness and insufficient knowledge about the efficacy of vaccination against this variant, the Ministry of Health has decided to change the method of terminating isolation and quarantine measures, with a new requirement for a negative RT-PCR test to terminate isolation or quarantine measures for persons in whom the South African variant was confirmed. This procedure reduces the probability of the spread of this variant through the population. Detailed information about the variant is provided in the ECDC [Risk assessment: SARS-CoV-2 - increased circulation of variants of concern and vaccine rollout in the EU/EEA, 14th update \(europa.eu\)](#).

In other respects, the extraordinary measures on imposing and terminating isolation and quarantine measures of 2 March 2021 remain unchanged.

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