



Prague, 22 March 2021

Ref. No.: MZDR 47828/2020-27/MIN/KAN

MZDRX01F5IY1

EMERGENCY 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 from the further spreading of the COVID-19 disease caused by the new SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus:

I.

1. Effective from 28 March 2021, employees who themselves performed a test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus antigen using a test provided by the employer or who were tested by a non-professional, are ordered, if the result of the test is positive, to immediately inform their employer about their planned absence from the workplace due to suspected positivity for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, to leave the workplace and return to their current residence address and to notify the employer’s occupational healthcare provider of the result of the test without delay, if the employer has so determined, otherwise to notify their registering provider of healthcare services in the field of general practical medicine or, where applicable, the field of paediatric practical medicine. If the employee is unable to notify the provider of healthcare services in accordance with the first sentence, he/she is obliged to contact another provider of healthcare services or public health protection authority which holds jurisdiction over his/her place of work in order for determination of further procedures to be followed.
2. Effective from 28 March 2021, independently gainful persons who themselves performed a test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus antigen using a test designated for self-testing or permitted for use by a non-professional, are ordered, if the result of the test is positive, to leave the workplace and return to their current residence address and to notify their registering provider of healthcare services in the field of general practical medicine or, where applicable, the field of paediatric practical medicine. If the independently gainful person is unable to notify the provider of healthcare services in accordance with the first sentence, he/she is obliged to contact another provider of healthcare services or the public health protection authority which holds jurisdiction over his/her place of work in order for determination of further procedures to be followed.

II.

Effective from 28 March 2021, employers who ensure tests to determine the presence of the SARS CoV-2 virus antigen, which can be used by a non-professional, and independently gainful persons who test themselves using tests to determine the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus antigen, which can be used by a non-professional, are ordered to keep records of the

performed tests.

III.

The healthcare service provider or public health protection authority that was notified about the positive result of a test pursuant to Art. I is obliged to issue an order form to the person specified in Art. I without delay for performance of an RT-PCR confirmation test to examine him/her for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. In the electronic application module of the Information System of Infection Diseases (ISIN), the healthcare service provider or public health protection authority is obliged to indicate that it is a confirmation RT-PCR test for self-testing and specify the employer identification number of this entity.

IV.

The person for whom the order form for the confirmation test pursuant to Art. III was issued is obliged to undergo this testing without undue delay.

V.

Effective from 28 March 2021, the Extraordinary Measure of 5 March 2021, Ref. No. MZDR 47828/2020-17/MIN/KAN, is repealed.

VI.

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

Rationale:

The spread of the new mutation of SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.7 (the so-called British variant), which spreads 40-70% more easily and faster in the population, is one of the causes of the turnaround in the COVID-19 epidemic towards an increase in the number of new cases of the disease. The B.1.351 variant (the so-called South African variant) is spreading significantly in all of the countries in the region of South Africa. The ECDC also anticipates spread of this variant in other countries in the region. According to assessment by the ECDC, the B.1.351 variant of the virus exhibits up to a 50% higher level of contagiousness and resistance, which means possible complications when applying existing vaccines. The spread of this variant has already been registered in 40 countries around the world. The P.1 variant (the so-called Brazilian variant) has so far been identified sporadically in 17 countries around the world. However, preliminary information confirms that the P.1 variant will probably be more contagious than the original strain of the virus in terms of percentage. At this moment in time, the lack of information regarding the effectiveness of the existing vaccines seems problematic.

The performance of preventive screening examinations for the presence of SARS-CoV-2 is an essential part of the anti-epidemic measures, the aim of this being to detect potentially infectious persons who have only minimal or no symptoms of infection yet who may unknowingly spread the disease. In view of the need to find a compromise in view of the

anticipated economic demands and lack of healthcare staff who could perform the regular testing of employees, this still being regarded as the gold standard and the main pillar of preventive testing, an additional pillar has also been made possible from the possible options, this being the performance of antigen tests by non-professionals. This method of testing allows for wide use by the general public, and with the sufficient sensitivity and specificity of the antigen test, and with regular repetition with a frequency of at least 1x per week, infected and predominantly asymptomatic persons will gradually be detected. In the event of a positive test, the result will be reported to the provider of healthcare services which will order performance of a confirmation test using the RT-PCR method. On the basis of the standardly performed RT-PCR confirmation test, a person who tested positive can be ordered into isolation in accordance with the valid Extraordinary Measure of the Ministry of Health on the ordering of isolation and quarantine and an epidemiological investigation can be commenced with the aim of ordering quarantine on all persons who came into epidemiologically significant contact with the person who tested positive.

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