



Prague dated 6 April 2021

Ref. No.: MZDR 14592/2021-1/MIN/KAN

MZDRX01FDPDP

## **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.**

A person who is applying for secondary education (hereinafter the “applicant”) will be allowed to attend the school admission examination, unified admission examination or talent examination (hereinafter the “examination”) in person, unless it is an admission examination conducted remotely, only if

- a) they do not have symptoms of COVID-19, and
- b) before the admission examination, they submit a negative result of a preventive antigen test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus antigen or a non-invasive preventive RT-PCR test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, conducted by the school, conducted by the applicant themselves or conducted by a non-professional in the past 7 days before the date of the examination, unless stipulated otherwise.

### **II.**

The applicant may substitute the document pursuant to Art. I(b) with

- a) a document stating that the applicant has undergone a laboratory-confirmed instance of COVID-19 and the period of isolation in accordance with the valid extraordinary measure of the Ministry of Health has ended, and no more than 90 days have passed from the first positive POC antigen test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus antigen or the RT-PCR test for the presence of a SARS-CoV-2 virus,
- b) a document issued by a healthcare service provider about a negative result of a POC antigen test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus antigen or an RT-PCR test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, performed in the last 7 days, or
- c) a certificate by the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic on vaccination against COVID-19, if at least 14 days have passed since the application of the second dose of the vaccine in the case of a two-dose scheme in accordance with the summary of product characteristics (hereinafter “SPC”) or at least 14 days have passed since the application of the first dose of

the vaccine in the case of a single-dose scheme in accordance with the SPC.

### **III.**

If the applicant is a school pupil, the applicant is authorized to undergo testing pursuant to Art. I(b) at the school of which they are a pupil for the purpose of attending the admission procedure.

### **IV.**

The school where the applicant is a pupil is obliged, at their request, to conduct a preventive test pursuant to Art. I(b) at the school and issue a document of the test result.

### **V.**

The secondary school or conservatory for which the applicant is applying may conduct a preventive test pursuant to Art. I(b) before the admission examination and issue a document of the test result.

### **VI.**

The school shall report aggregated data about the performed testing of the child, pupil, student or applicant pursuant to Art. I electronically to the COVID forms App without undue delay at the latest on the date of obtaining the test results. The report shall contain at least the contact person, type of test, total number of tested persons, number of persons with a positive test result, number of persons with a negative test result and number of inconclusive tests.

### **VII.**

The school that organizes the admission examination will check whether the applicant meets the conditions pursuant to Art. I and II. If the applicant does not submit the document pursuant to Art. I or II, the school will not allow them to participate in the admission examination.

### **VIII.**

If the applicant has the right to the presence of a supporting person or other person at the admission examination, this person must submit a document pursuant to Art. II, otherwise this person will not be allowed to attend the admission examination.

### **IX.**

1. The legal guardian of the child, pupil or applicant or the applicant alone is obliged to inform the healthcare service provider in the field of general medicine or general pediatric medicine via telephone or other usual remote communication about a positive test result pursuant to Art. I(b).

2. All persons with a positive result of the preventive antigen test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus antigen pursuant to Art. I(b) are ordered to undergo a confirmation RT-PCR test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

3. In the case of a positive result of the preventive antigen test for the presence of SARS-CoV-2 virus antigen pursuant to Art. I(b), the healthcare service provider in the field of general medicine

or general pediatric medicine is obliged to decide on the performance of a confirmation test using the RT-PCR method and complete the electronic request form for this test. In the case of a positive result of the preventive RT-PCR test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus pursuant to Art. I(b), it proceeds pursuant to the extraordinary measure of the Ministry of Health on ordering isolation and quarantine.

## X.

This extraordinary measure comes into effect on 26 April 2021.

### Rationale

The new B.1.1.7 variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus (i.e. the British variant), which spreads through the population about 40 to 70% faster, is one of the causes of the unfavorable trend in the development of the COVID-19 epidemic, which is characterized by the rising number of new cases of contagion. The B.1.351 variant (the so-called South African variant) is spreading significantly primarily of the countries in the region of South Africa. The European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) also anticipates the spread of this variant in other countries in the world. Based on an ECDC evaluation, the B.1.351 virus variant is up to 50% more contagious and also less sensitive to the vaccination substances available to date, which can have a negative impact on the effect of vaccination against COVID-19. The spread of this variant has already been registered in more than 60 countries around the world. Preliminary information confirms that the P.1 variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus (the so-called Brazilian variant) is more contagious than the original strain of the virus. Another problem now appears to be the lack of information about the efficacy of the available vaccines on the new variants of SARS-CoV-2 virus.

The performance of preventive screening examinations for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus is an essential part of the anti-epidemic measures, the aim of this being to detect infected persons who have only minimal or no symptoms of infection yet may be a source of contagion for other persons without being aware of it.

V In the interest of reducing the risk of contagion, an obligation is stipulated to be tested and submit a negative test result as a condition for access to the admission examination.

The purpose of testing is to protect public health. The obligation to undergo a test is a very minor infringement on the applicant's rights compared to reducing the risk of infecting other applicants, who are taking an examination at the same place at an epidemiologically significant time. The potential transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 contagion to the applicants' epidemiologically significant contacts increases the risk of the further extension of the unfavorable trend in COVID-19 incidence. This risk is further augmented by the fact that applicants for studies at secondary school often come from different districts or regions.

V In reaction to the declaration of a state of emergency on 26 February 2021 and the continued prohibition of the personal presence of pupils at primary schools due to the unfavorable epidemiological situation, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports has made, through general measures, several changes in the process of conducting admission examinations for secondary schools in this school year.

Admission examinations for four-year fields of education with a school-leaving examination, fields of education without a school-leaving examination and additional education will be conducted from 3 to 19 May 2021 in this school year. Every applicant was able to submit an application for two secondary schools or two fields of education at the same school. In the admission procedure criteria as at 31 January 2021, the school principals declared whether the school will conduct

school admission examinations in the case of fields with a school-leaving examination, or whether it will also conduct a unified admission examination. If the school with a field of education with a school-leaving examination does not conduct the unified admission examination, a school admission examination must always be conducted and such an applicant also takes the unified admission examination twice at the school also specified in their application form, which conducts the unified admission examination. Almost every applicant for secondary education with a school-leaving examination will thus participate in admission proceedings at two schools on minimally two dates, in some cases on three dates (if they take the unified admission examination twice at one school and the school admission examination at the other school). The unified admission examination is held on the regular date on 3 May 2021, on the second regular date on 4 May 2021. In the case of applicants who duly excuse themselves from the regular date within three days to the school principal, the principal will admit the excuse and a substitute date of the unified admission examination will be held on 2 and 3 June 2021.

Admission examinations for six-year and eight-year high schools are held in the form of a unified admission examination, which may be supplemented by a school admission examination on the same day as the unified examination (if the school admission examination is not conducted remotely). The first regular date of the unified admission examination to multi-year high schools will be held on 5 May 2021, the second regular date will be held on 6 May 2021. Substitute dates are held on the same dates as in the case of four-year fields of education with a school-leaving examination and additional study, on 2 and 3 June 2021.

V In the case of four-year fields of education with a school-leaving examination, 61,000 applicants applied for the first (3 May 2021) and second (4 May 2021) regular date of the unified admission examination in this school year. In the course of the period from 5 to 19 May 2021, several more thousand applicants taking school admission examinations without a unified admission examination will also be on the move. In the case of multi-year high schools, almost 23,000 applicants have applied for the first regular date (5 May 2021), and more than 17,000 applicants for the second regular date (6 May 2021). In the course of four days of holding the unified admission examinations, there will be almost 162,000 applicants on the move, plus other transfers for the purpose of conducting school admission examinations, all within several different districts.

V In the extreme case, a situation may arise in which up to 485 applicants apply, and therefore attend admission examinations at one school in this school year.

It follows from the foregoing that the course of admission procedures must be organized to as to minimize the risk of transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. For this reason, this extraordinary measure stipulates that applicants for secondary education will only be allowed to attend admission examinations if they do not have symptoms of COVID-19 and submit confirmation of the negative result of a POC antigen test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus antigen or an RT-PCR test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, performed at the school of which they are a pupil, at latest in the past 7 days before taking the examination.

This confirmation may also be replaced with document stating that the applicant has undergone a laboratory-confirmed instance of COVID-19 and the period of isolation in accordance with a valid extraordinary measure of the Ministry of Health has ended, and no more than 90 days have passed from the first positive POC antigen test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus antigen or the RT-PCR test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, or a document issued by a healthcare service provider confirming the negative result of the POC antigen test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus antigen or an RT-PCR test for the presence of SARS-

CoV-2, performed in the past 7 days, or a certificate by the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic on vaccination against COVID-19, and at least 14 days have passed since the application of the second dose of a vaccine in the case of a two-dose scheme in accordance with the summary of product characteristics (hereinafter "SPC") or at least 14 days have passed since the application of the first dose of a vaccine in the case of a single-dose scheme in accordance with the SPC.

The pupil has the right to request this testing at the school at which they are already a pupil, and the school is obliged to provide this testing and issue a document of it to the pupil.

The secondary school for which the pupil is applying may allow the performance of a test immediately before the examination. However, it is not obliged to do this.

The issued documents are checked by the secondary school before allowing the pupil to enter the school building to take the admission examination. Without the submitted document, the applicant will not be allowed to take the examination.

The same document must also be presented by other persons participating in the examination with the applicant (supporting person).

**doc. MUDr. Jan Blatný, Ph.D.**  
**Minister of Health**  
*Signed electronically*

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