



Prague, 19 April 2021

Ref. No.: MZDR 14601/2021-
4/MIN/KAN

MZDRX01FMD2B

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 and prevent the occurrence and spread of the COVID-19 disease caused by the new SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus:

I.

Effective from 21 April 2021, the extraordinary measure of 10 April 2021 Ref. No. MZDR 14601/2021-2/MIN/KAN, as amended by the extraordinary measure of 12 April 2021 Ref. No. MZDR 14601/2021-3/MIN/KAN, is amended as follows:

1. Art. I(5)(g) shall read:

“g) the operation of facilities or provision of services to persons aged 6 to 18 focused on activities similar to informal education pursuant to Section 2 of Decree No. 74/2005 Coll., such as particularly informal, pedagogic, recreational or educational activities, including preparation for schooling, or the provision of similar services to children aged up to 6, including care for them, in that the public presence thereat is prohibited; this does not apply if it concerns the provision of a service at the household of the service’s user,”

2. Art. I(5)(i) shall read:

“i) provision of the service of care for children in a children’s group in all regions with the exception of the Hradec Králové Region and Karlovy Vary Region in such a manner that the presence of the public thereat is prohibited, including the children whose parents the service is provided to, with the exception of children that, no later than 31 August 2020, reached the fifth year of age or the provision of the service of caring for children whose parents are

- healthcare professionals of healthcare service providers,
- teaching staff who ensure in-person schooling at kindergartens, primary schools, school groups, school clubs, fields of education at practical one-year schools and practical two-year schools,
- teaching staff of educational facilities for institutional or protective education,

- employees of the security corps,
- members of the armed forces,
- employees of public health protection authorities,
- employees specified in Section 115(1) in accordance with Act No. 108/2006 Coll., on social services, as amended, and other employees in social services,
- social workers classified for the performance of social work in regional and municipal authorities in accordance with Act No. 108/2006 Coll., on social services, as amended,
- social workers and other specialist workers performing activities in accordance with Act No. 359/1999 Coll., on the social and legal protection of children, as amended,
- employees of the Czech Labour Office,
- employees of the Czech Social Security Administration Authority and Regional Social Security Administration Authorities, or
- employees of the Financial Administration of the Czech Republic.”

II.

This extraordinary measure takes effect on the date of its issue.

Rationale:

Section 5(g) of Extraordinary Measure of the Ministry of Health Ref. No. MZDR 14601/2021-2/MIN/KAN is expressly supplemented to include a limitation on services as far as concerns care for children up to 6 years of age, with regard to the fact that until now there has only been explicit regulation of activities from 6 to 18 years of age and organised group activities for children up to 6 years of age (not covered by the regime of the Schools Act or the Trade Licensing Act) were only limited through the general provisions regulating association activities. At the time of an unfavourable epidemiological situation where it is necessary to limit association and other activities providing care and education for children up to 18 years of age, it is necessary to expand this limitation expressly to include activities intended for children up to 6 years of age, as non-homogenous groups of children meet here. The current anti-epidemic measures in schools and school facilities require the thorough maintenance of the homogeneity of collectives (classes), so it is not reasonable to, outside the regime for in-person school attendance, enable activities of non-homogenous children’s collectives.

Section 5(i) of the relevant extraordinary measure is supplemented for the purposes of the presence of children as a part of the provision of the otherwise limited service of children’s groups to include key infrastructure professions in accordance with Art. I(14) of the extraordinary measure regulating the regime for schools and school facilities. These provisions are proposed in order to ensure the same approach for parents from the same professions – regardless of whether they chose a children’s group of kindergarten for their child (due to age or other reasons). The text is also altered in order to provide the option of attending a children’s group for children that are the right age for the group of children in the last preschool year, in a similar manner children can attend kindergartens with regard to mandatory preschool education. The provisions are therefore within the extent of the unification of conditions for parents with small children, regardless of the facility used

(kindergarten or children's group).

With regard to epidemiological trends, however, it is not necessary to retain this restriction in two regions, where the trends in the epidemic are more favourable. In the districts of the Karlovy Vary Region and Hradec Králové Region, it is possible to observe a long-term and continual fall not only in the number of cases of COVID-19, but also in the number of patients hospitalised, including patients in intensive care units. The overall situation in such regions has been stabilised over the long term, which is shown by the values of the monitored indicators used for assessing trends in the epidemic, using the 7-day incidence value, the 7-day rolling average and numbers of total hospitalisations, including the numbers of patients in intensive care units. In both regions, the 7-day incidence is below the level of 100 cases per 100,000 people, i.e. the value is more than twice as low as the national average; the situation with the 7-day rolling average is similar. The current daily average number of newly-diagnosed cases of the disease in the Karlovy Vary Region is less than 30 cases and in the Hradec Králové Region is it around 60 cases. The situation concerning hospital care is also stabilised, where numbers of total hospitalisations and hospitalisations in intensive care units are the lowest since last October, which is related to the number of cases of COVID-19 found in senior citizens/vulnerable groups of people. In both regions, single numbers of new cases of the disease in persons aged 65 and over are reported each day on average. All the parameters monitored show the overall stabilisation and current positive trends in the epidemiological situation in both the regions and for this reason in such regions it is possible to enable the presence of children in preschool facilities without an age limitation.

**Prof. MUDr. Petr Arenberger, DrSc., MBA,
undersigned**

Minister of Health