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 26 April 2021, the extraordinary measure of 6 April 2021 Ref. No. MZDR 14592/2021-3/MIN/KAN, as amended by the extraordinary measure of 12 April 2021, Ref. No. MZDR 14592/2021-4/MIN/KAN, is amended in such a manner that in Art. I(1), the second sentence is replaced by the sentence

“The restriction pursuant to the first sentence does not apply to children in preschool in the Hradec Králové Region and Karlovy Vary Region, as well as to individual consultations and individual in-person teaching or other individual activity.”.

II.

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

Rationale:

The extraordinary measure cancels the testing of children for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 antigen in kindergartens in selected regions in which, with regard to epidemiological trends, it is not necessary to maintain restrictions on in-person preschool education.

In the districts of the Karlovy Vary Region and Hradec Králové Region, it is possible to observe a long-term and continual decrease 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 indicators monitored 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 therefore indicate a general stabilisation and current positive trends in the epidemiological situation in both regions.

The testing of small children in this quantity would, in addition, be hard to perform.

Prof. MUDr. Petr Arenberger, DrSc., MBA, undersigned
Minister of Health