



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
Palackého náměstí 375/4, 128 01 Prague 2

Prague, 23 April 2021

Ref. No.: MZDR 14601/2021-6/MIN/KAN

MZDRX01FP898

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 on the amendment of certain related acts, as amended, and Section 2(1) of Act No. 94/2021 Coll., on Extraordinary Measures during the COVID-19 Disease Epidemic and on the amendment of certain related acts, **orders** this Extraordinary Measure, proceeding pursuant to Section 69(1)(b) and (i) and (2) of Act No. 258/2000 Coll., and pursuant to Section 2(2)(b) through (e) and (i) of Act No. 94/2021 Coll., in order to protect the population against the further spread of the COVID-19 disease caused by the novel SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus:

I.

Effective from 12:00 a.m. on 26 April 2021 until the cancellation of this extraordinary measure:

1. the activity of commercial or production establishments, service establishments or the operation of shopping centers is restricted, in that public presence is prohibited at retail shops selling goods and services and service establishments, with the exception of the following establishments:
 - a) shops selling foodstuffs,
 - b) shops selling fuel and other supplies for the operation of road transportation vehicles,
 - c) facilities selling fuel,
 - d) shops selling hygienic goods, cosmetics and other toiletries and household products,
 - e) pharmacies, dispensaries and shops selling medical devices,
 - f) shops selling small domestic pets,
 - g) shops selling animal feed and other supplies for animals;
 - h) shops selling glasses, contact lenses and related goods,
 - i) shops selling newspapers and magazines,
 - j) shops selling tobacco products,
 - k) laundries and dry cleaning services,
 - l) road vehicle servicing and repair facilities,
 - m) facilities of providers of towing services and the removal of defects of vehicles in traffic on roads,
 - n) shops selling spare parts for vehicles and production technologies,
 - o) establishments enabling the collection of goods and shipments purchased remotely,
 - p) shops selling gardening supplies, including seeds and seedlings,
 - q) the over-the-counter sale of travel tickets,
 - r) flower shops,
 - s) establishments arranging the construction of buildings and their removal, project-related activities in construction, geological work, surveying, testing, measurements and analyses in construction,

- t) establishments providing the servicing of computer and telecommunication equipment, audio and video receivers, consumer electronics, devices and other household products,
 - u) locksmiths and the servicing of other household products,
 - v) business premises offering the repair, maintenance and installation of household machinery and equipment services,
 - w) business premises offering funeral services, carrying out embalming and preservation, the incineration of human remains, including the placing of human remains into urns,
 - x) car washes without attendants,
 - y) shops selling household products and ironmongery, where household products do not include furniture, carpets and other floor coverings,
 - z) establishments enabling the collection and buyback of raw materials and composting yards,
 - aa) establishments (including mobile) selling mourning goods, e.g. wreathes, floral arrangements for graves, mourning candles and similar; the prohibition of sales in mobile facilities does not apply to these establishments listed in point 1/8,
 - ab) stationery shops,
 - ac) shops selling children's clothing and children's footwear,
 - ad) vehicles operated by taxi services or other individual contractual passenger transportation,
 - ae) psychological consultancy and diagnosis establishments,
- on the understanding that the sale of other goods and provision of other services is prohibited in these shops and business premises; this prohibition does not apply to activities that are not trades under the Trade Licensing Act; this prohibition also does not apply to such business premises in which, although retail sales and sales and provision of services which are not prohibited do not represent the exclusive activity in the business premises, that part of the business premises in which retail sales and sales and provision of services which are not prohibited is separated from the other parts of the business premises which customers cannot enter,
2. the activity of catering establishments is restricted in that the public presence is prohibited at catering establishment facilities (e.g. restaurants, pubs and bars), with the exception of:
 - a) facilities which do not serve the public (e.g., employee catering facilities, catering facilities for healthcare service and social service providers, at prison facilities), on the understanding that consumption of meals is only permitted in employee catering facilities with at most 1 diner sitting at one table; if this is a long table, several diners may be seated there with distancing of at least 2 meters between diners or physical barriers being in place between diners to prevent the spread of droplets,
 - b) school catering facilities for employees present on the workplace and children, pupils and students participating in in-person learning,
 - c) facilities at accommodation establishments under the condition that they provide meals only to accommodated persons, and only between 6:00 a.m. and 9:59 p.m.;

does not affect the possibility of sales outside of the establishment providing catering services (e.g., fast food establishments with a service window or the sale of take-away food), whereas sales to customers at the location of the establishment (e.g., a service window) is prohibited between 10:00 p.m. and 5:59 a.m.,
 3. concerts and other musical, theatre, film and other artistic performances, including circuses and variety shows with an audience present; these performances or rehearsals for them may only be held without an audience if performed by artists doing so within the framework of their employment or business, on the understanding that
 - a) protective respiratory equipment for performers can be taken off only in the place of performance of the production itself and only for the time of such a production,
 - b) if a scene includes singing, the number of performers on the stage or in rehearsal is limited in such a manner that the total number of performers cannot be higher than the number of square meters of total floor area of the stage or rehearsal area divided by four,
 - c) in the case of musicians in all instrument groups, it is necessary to comply with distancing of at least 1.2 meters and every musician playing a string instrument should use a separate music stand, if allowed by the spatial conditions,
 4. congresses, educational events and examinations with attendance in person are prohibited, with the exception of:

- a) the practical training and practice pursuant to Act No. 95/2004 Coll., on the Conditions for Obtaining and Recognizing Professional Qualifications and Specialized Qualifications for the Medical Profession of a Doctor, Dentist and Pharmacist, as amended, and pursuant to Act no. 96/2004 Coll., on Conditions for Obtaining and Recognizing Qualifications for the Pursuit of Non-Medical Healthcare Professions and for Activities Related to the Provision of Healthcare and on amendments to some related acts (the Act on Non-Medical Healthcare Professions), as amended,
 - b) the professional education of members of the security services of the Czech Republic, municipal police officers, members of the Fire Brigade of the Czech Republic and members of fire protection units;
 - c) activities on the basis of Act No. 247/2000 Coll., on the Acquisition and Improvement of Professional Qualifications for Driving Motor Vehicles, and on amendments to certain acts, as amended, Act No. 114/1995 Coll., on Inland Navigation, as amended, Act No. 61/2000 Coll., on Marine Navigation, as amended, Act No. 266/1994 Coll., on Railways, as amended, and psychological driver examinations pursuant to Act No. 361/2000 Coll., on Road Traffic, and on amendments to certain acts.
 - d) activities leading towards the acquisition of special professional qualifications in accordance with Section 11 of Act No. 309/2006 Coll., Regulating Further Requirements for Occupational Health and Safety in Employment Relations and on Ensuring Health and Safety during the Performance of Activities or Provision of Services Outside of employment relations (the Act on Ensuring Further Conditions for Occupational Health and Safety), as amended, and activities leading towards overcoming conditions pursuant to Section 3 (10) (d) of Decree No. 87/2000 Coll., Determining Conditions for Fire Safety during Welding and the Heating of Resins in Melting Pots;
 - e) other educational events and examinations in professional qualifications and other examinations, the passing of which is a condition stipulated by legal regulations to perform certain activities, courses with an accredited program pursuant to Act No. 108/2006 Coll., on Social Services, as amended, accredited qualification courses pursuant to Act No. 96/2004 Coll., and requalification courses organized by the Labor Office of the Czech Republic or Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs pursuant to Act No. 435/2004 Coll., on Employment, as amended, directed towards acquiring professional qualifications by passing an examination pursuant to Act No. 179/2006 Coll., on the Verification and Recognition of the Results of Further Education, and the amendment of certain laws (the Act on the Recognition of the Results of Further Education), as amended, provided these are not educational events and examinations which are part of education pursuant to Act No. 561/2004 Coll., on Preschool, Primary, Secondary, College and other Education (the Schools Act), as amended, or Act No. 111/1998 Coll., on Universities, and on the amendment and supplementation of other acts (the Act on Universities), as amended;
- the presence of more than 10 persons at any one time is prohibited, and if the examination is public pursuant to the law, no more than 3 public attendees are permitted;

5. The following is restricted:

- a) the operation of gambling halls, casinos and betting offices, in that the public presence therein is prohibited,
- b) the operation and use of sports grounds in the indoor premises of buildings (e.g. gymnasiums, courts, skating rinks, other rinks, bowling alleys and billiard halls, training equipment) and the indoor premises of outdoor sports grounds, dance studios, gyms and fitness centers, in that public presence therein is prohibited, with the exception of:
 - i) physical activity at schools or school facilities and universities, where permitted by extraordinary measures,
 - ii) sports training by persons as a part of employment, the performance of business or other similar activities, as well as preparations for sports events held during competitions organized by sports associations and sports events which are not prohibited:
- c) the operation and use of artificial swimming areas (swimming pools, bathing pools, pools for babies and toddlers, paddling pools), wellness facilities including saunas, solariums and salt caves, in that the public presence therein is prohibited if this does not involve the provision of healthcare services by a healthcare service provider;
- d) the operation of zoos and botanical gardens, in that the public presence therein is prohibited, with the exception of outdoor premises, whereas maximally 20% of the capacity of the maximum number of visitors at one time can be used; the same restriction shall apply to visits to arbors and

- other gardens or parks for which access is regulated;
 - e) the operation of museums, galleries, exhibition halls, castles, chateaux and similar historical and cultural facilities, observatories and planetariums, in that public visits and tours are prohibited,
 - f) the holding of trade fairs and retail economic exhibitions, in that the public presence thereat is prohibited;
 - 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,
 - h) the operation of ski lifts and cableways, in that the public presence thereat is prohibited, with the exception of using cableways to ensure traffic accessibility as a part of public services, and with the exception of using ski lifts and cableways to ensure the stocking or operation of critical infrastructure or for the needs of the Integrated Rescue System units, including the Mountain Rescue Services,
 - i) provision of the service of care for children in a children's group in all regions with the exception of the Karlovy Vary Region and Plzeň 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 the performance of institutional or protective education,
 - employees of 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 activity in accordance with Act No. 359/1999 Coll., on the Social and Legal Protection of Children, as amended,
 - employees of the Czech Labor 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,
6. the provision of short-term or recreational accommodation services is restricted, with the exception of the provision of accommodation services to:
- a) only persons for whom this accommodation is essential to perform their employment, occupation, business or other similar activity, whereas:
 - i) each person provided with accommodation is obliged to prove this purpose before taking up accommodation by written confirmation from the employer or client,
 - ii) the operator is obliged to require proof of the purpose pursuant to point i) and keep this proof throughout the accommodated person's stay,
 - b) persons who were ordered to carry out work duties according to the Crisis Act,
 - c) foreigners, if they do not have any other place of residence in the Czech Republic and are authorized to enter and remain in the Czech Republic, in accordance with other regulations,
 - d) persons who were ordered to isolate or quarantine,
 - e) persons for the purpose of completing the provisioning of accommodation commencing before this extraordinary measure came into effect; if they have no other place of residence in the Czech Republic,
 - f) persons who are accommodated for the purpose of being provided with medical services, and their required escort,

- g) persons in need of housing, whose accommodation was arranged by the local government,
7. retail sales and the sale and provision of services in shops where the public presence is not prohibited pursuant to point 1/1, is restricted in that it is prohibited between 10:00 p.m. and 5:59 a.m., whereas this prohibition does not apply to activities that are not trades in accordance with the Trades Licensing Act or to the operation of:
- petrol stations selling fuels and lubricants,
 - pharmacies,
 - shops in places with a high concentration of passengers at airports, railway stations and bus stations,
 - shops at healthcare facilities,
 - outlets for catering services to an extent in accordance with item 1/2,
 - vehicles operated by taxi services or other individual contractual passenger transportation,
8. sales at markets, marketplaces, mobile facilities (sales at stands in mobile outlets and sales from other mobile facilities), travelling and house-to-house sales are prohibited; the prohibition does not apply to mobile shops selling foodstuffs and drugstore products in municipalities where such goods cannot be purchased in another shop; the prohibition also does not apply to the sale of fruit and vegetables (in a fresh or processed state), flowers and other plants, their fruits and seeds, milk and dairy products, meat and meat products, including live fish, eggs, bakery products and confections, honey and honey products, whereas their operators must observe the following rules:
- a distance of at least 2 meters must be ensured between stands, tables or other points of sale,
 - there must be no more than 1 person per 15 m² of the area of the market or marketplace at any one time;
 - containers with disinfectants must be placed at every point of sale,
 - the operation of catering services and serving of meals including beverages intended for immediate consumption is prohibited,
 - tables and places to sit are prohibited,
9. conditions are stipulated for the operation of catering establishments, where the presence of the public in the establishment is not prohibited under point 1/2 is restricted in that their operators must adhere to the following rules:
- customers are seated so that there is a distance of at least 1.5 meters between them, except for customers sitting at one table,
 - there may be a maximum of 4 customers seated at one table, except for members of the same household; if the table is long, more customers may be seated at it, so that there is a distance of at least 2 meters between groups of a maximum 4 customers, except members of the same household,
 - the operator must not allow a greater number of customers into the indoor premises of the establishment than the number of seats available to customers in the indoor premises of the establishment; the operator is obliged to keep a written record of the current number of seats for customers,
 - prohibition of live music and dance productions,
 - the option of wireless internet connection for the public will not be provided,
10. the operation of catering establishments is restricted in that in the case of sales from catering service establishments outside of its indoor space (i.e. a service window), persons that, in the space near to the establishment, are consuming food and drink purchased there are obliged to comply with distancing of at least 2 meters from other persons, unless they are members of the same household,
11. the operation of musical, dance, acting and similar social clubs and discotheques is restricted, in that the public presence at these venues is prohibited;
12. conditions are stipulated for the operations of shopping centers with a sales area exceeding 5,000 m², in that:
- the use of rest areas (chairs, lounges, benches, etc.) will be restricted so that people do not gather in these places,
 - the option of a wireless internet connection for the public will not be provided,

- c) the operator must ensure at least one person to supervise the observance of the following rules and encourage customers and other persons to observe them,
 - d) the following instructions for customers are disclosed to customers and other persons primarily through information signs, posters, on displays, intercoms, etc.,
 - e) the operator will ensure the visible posting of instructions to maintain a distance of 2 meters between persons in the publicly accessible areas of the shopping Centre (e.g., by means of infographics, commercials on the center's radio, infographics at the entrance to stores and other facilities, infographics on the floors of public areas, etc.),
 - f) gathering of persons will be restricted, particularly in areas where this can be expected, e.g., in the underground garages, areas in front of elevators, escalators, travellers, bathrooms, etc.,
 - g) the operation of children's corners is prohibited,
 - h) the operator will ensure maximum possible air circulation with the intake of outdoor air (ventilation or air-conditioning) without air recirculation in the building,
 - i) promotional activities where there is a person present to ensure their progress are prohibited at stores,
 - j) sales from catering service establishments located in a shopping Centre are only possible through a service hatch or as takeaway,
13. conditions are stipulated for the operation in business premises pursuant to point I/1/1, where a public presence is not prohibited, with the exception of the vehicles of taxi services or other individual contractual passenger transportation, and library operations, in that the operator complies with the following rules:
- a) they will not allow the presence of more customers than 1 customer per 15 m² of sales area in an establishment; in the case of establishments with a sales area of less than 15 m², this restriction does not apply to a child under 15 years of age accompanying a customer or a person accompanying a customer who holds a medical disability pass; in the case of other establishments, this restriction does not apply to a child under 6 years of age accompanying a customer,
 - b) they will actively prevent customers from coming closer than 2 meters to each other, unless these are persons from the same household,
 - c) they will ensure the management of queues of waiting customers, both inside and outside the store, particularly by marking the waiting area and placing symbols indicating the minimum distance between customers (a minimum distance of 2 m), whereas a customer who holds a medical disability pass has a priority right to shop,
 - d) disinfectants must be placed near frequently touched objects (especially handles, railings, shopping carts), so that they are available to employees and customers of the establishment and can be used for regular disinfection;
 - e) it must be ensured that customers are informed of the above-mentioned rules, primarily by means of information posters at the entrance and throughout the establishment, or by stating the rules through loudspeaker announcements in the establishment;
 - f) ensuring the maximum possible air circulation with the intake of outdoor air (ventilation or air-conditioning) without air recirculation in the building,
 - g) promotional activities where there is a person present to ensure their progress are prohibited at stores,
 - h) in the case of a person pushing a pram with a child, the operator must not oblige them to use a shopping cart to shop, and the child in the pram is not included in the total number of persons permitted to be in the sales area,
- whereas the sales area refers to the part of the business premises designated for the sale and display of goods, i.e., the total area accessible to customers, including dressing rooms, the area taken up by tills and displays and the area behind the tills used by the sales staff; the sales area does not include offices, warehouses and preparation areas, workshops, stairs, changing rooms and other social facilities,
14. conditions are stipulated for the activity pursuant to Act No. 247/2000 Coll., on the Acquiring and Improvement of Professional Qualifications to Drive Motor Vehicles and on the amendment of certain laws, as amended, in that a driving school operator will ensure the fulfillment of anti-epidemic measures consisting of the disinfection of contact surfaces in the vehicle using disinfectant with a

virucidal effect after every driving lesson,

15. the operation of providers of spa rehabilitation care is restricted, in that it is possible to solely provide spa treatment rehabilitation care that is at least partially reimbursed from public health insurance;
16. society, dance, traditional and similar events and gatherings, festivals, fairs, exhibitions, tastings, and other public and private events during which more than 2 people are gathered in one place at any one time are prohibited, unless stipulated otherwise by this extraordinary measure, and with the exception of attendance at weddings, ceremonies of persons entering into registered partnerships, and funerals, where at most 15 persons at one time may attend in indoor and outdoor premises; this prohibition does not apply to meetings, assemblies and similar events of the constitutional bodies, public authorities, courts and other public entities, which are held by law, and to assemblies held pursuant to Act No. 84/1990 Coll., on the Right of Assembly, as amended; the Ministry of Health is authorized to stipulate the binding hygienic-epidemiological conditions for mass events otherwise prohibited pursuant to this crisis measure, upon the observance of which they may be held for reasons worthy of consideration, in particular if these are events in the important interest of the state, important cultural events or important sporting matches or competitions,
17. the following conditions are stipulated for exercising the right to peaceful assembly pursuant to Act No. 84/1990 Coll., on the Right to Assemble, as amended, in that:
 - a) each participant is obliged to have respiratory protective equipment (covering the nose and mouth) preventing the spread of droplets, in accordance with the extraordinary measure of the Ministry of Health regulating the use of respiratory protective equipment,
 - b) if the assembly is held outside the indoor premises of buildings, the participants may assemble in groups of maximally 20 and maintain a distance of at least 2 meters between the groups of participants,
 - c) if the assembly is held on the indoor premises of buildings, the participants must maintain a distance of at least 2 meters between each other (except household members) and disinfect their hands before entering the indoor premises,
18. the following conditions are stipulated for the holding of elections of bodies of legal entities and meetings of the bodies of legal entities, except for the bodies of local governments, if they are attended by more than 10 persons in one place:
 - a) the participants are seated so as to maintain a distance of at least 2 meters, except for household members,
 - b) when entering the indoor premises, the participant will prove that they meet the conditions stipulated in point 1.19, and the operator will check the fulfillment of conditions and will not allow participants who do not meet the conditions to access the indoor premises,
19. stipulates the following conditions for the access of persons to certain indoor premises, if required by this extraordinary measure:
 - a) the person has taken a RT-PCR test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus antigen with a negative result no more than 7 days ago, or
 - b) the person has taken a POC test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus antigen with a negative result no more than 72 hours ago, or
 - c) a person who has been issued 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, or
 - d) the person has undergone a laboratory-confirmed instance of COVID-19, where 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 since the first positive RT-PCR test for the presence of SARS-CoV-2 or POC antigen test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 antigen.

II.

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

III.

Effective from 12:00 a.m. on 26 March 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 and the extraordinary measure of 19 April 2021, Ref. No. MZDR 14601/2021-4/MIN/KAN, is repealed.

Rationale:

The current epidemiological situation is still unfavorable and the risk of the further spread of COVID-19 in the population is still high despite the continuous decline in cases.

Yesterday's value of 2,615 cases (22 April 2021) is more than 600 cases lower than the value reported last week (3,263; 15 April 2021); although the percentage decline is lower (-20%) than in past weeks, this value still indicates the continued downward trend, as documented by the seven-day incidence value (171), which is the lowest seven-day incidence value since the start of October 2020. As the daily number of cases declines in absolute numbers, it is possible to expect the week-on-week differences to decline, i.e. the slowdown rate will not be as significant. The declines still apply to all the regions and there are no fluctuations in the data indicating any risky impact of the easing after 12 April 2021.

Although the epidemic continues to slow down on the population level, as stated above, and the values are declining quite significantly, this does not alter the fact that despite this long-term positive trend, we are still registering high daily figures on the order of several thousands of cases on weekdays, and it is therefore crucial for the epidemic to be decelerated as much as possible and to continue the current trend of decline in the coming period, and to prevent major outbreaks which would have the potential to spread further.

Due to the still high daily numbers, albeit considerably lower than during this year's peak, i.e., in early March when the daily average was more than 12,000 cases, making the current figures more than 75% lower, the present situation is deemed risky and "fragile" and it is necessary to proceed very cautiously in the phase of easing and permitting activities, and to evaluate the impacts at regular intervals, so that any outbreaks are detected promptly and such anti-epidemic measures are put in place to prevent the uncontrolled spread of the disease in the community and population and a worsening of the epidemiological situation.

The degree of risk is indicated, among other, by the seven-day average value, which has dropped below 3,000 cases (it is currently at 2,615 cases); this is also the lowest since the start of October 2020.

Regionally, the highest figures yesterday in descending order were reported in South Moravia (362), Moravia-Silesia (334), Central Bohemia (319), South Bohemia (281), Zlín (250), Ústí (220), Prague (216), Vysočina (161), Olomouc (160), Pardubice (98), Liberec (89), Plzeň (78), Hradec Králové (38), and the least again in the Karlovy Vary region (4). In the Zlín region, the values are still oscillating between relatively high and risky levels, which are reflected in the number of hospitalized patients. This is a region that was affected last by the accelerated spread of the epidemic after 1 January 2021, and the situation is still not showing a definite declining trend. Similarly high values are reported in the South Bohemia and Vysočina regions.

Reviewing the current developments in the individual regions of the Czech Republic, we can observe certain much smaller differences over time, which are gradually being almost obliterated in most regions. In the regions of Bohemia, the seven-day incidence is currently in a broad range from 50 to 235 cases per 100,000 inhabitants per 7 days, where the bottom limit applies to the Karlovy Vary (49) and Hradec Králové (60) regions; the seven-day incidence is below 150 cases in the Plzeň region, (107), Prague (131), Central Bohemian (148) and Liberec (148) regions, and higher seven-day incidence values, i.e. over 200 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, are in the Ústí region, Vysočina and South Bohemia, which show the highest figures in the Czech Republic for this indicator. The range is narrower in the Moravian

regions, from 175 cases per 100,000 inhabitants per 7 days in the South Moravian region, to 280 cases in this parameter currently reported in the Zlín region, currently the region with the highest seven-day incidence value with this figure. In the three remaining regions not listed above, namely Moravia-Silesia, Olomouc and Pardubice, the value of the seven-day incidence ranges between 175 cases to 210 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, meaning above the nationwide average. The seven-day incidence value shows the gradual narrowing of the differences between the regions of Bohemia and Moravia, which refers back to the monitored spread of the “wave” from west to east, where a sharper decline is apparent in the western Bohemian regions compared to the Moravian regions, where the pace of the decline is somewhat slower.

The total nationwide week-on-week decline is -23%, which signals the continued decline of total values and slowdown of the epidemic.

An important monitored indicator of the current situation is the seven-day incidence value, because in the period of its growth, i.e. February and March, the number of cases per 7 days per 100,000 inhabitants exceeded 1,000 cases in dozens of districts. Currently, we have not observed an incidence higher than 400 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in any of the districts; on the contrary, the number of districts below the limit of 250 cases per 100,000 inhabitants is growing. There are currently 71, meaning more than four fifths of all the districts, which also demonstrates the slowdown of the epidemic on a district level. Primarily districts in the Zlín region still exceed the limit of 250 cases per seven-day incidence.

In evaluating the individual regions, the situation in the Karlovy Vary region has been stabilized for a longer period of time, based on current figures, documented also by the current week-on-week decline in case numbers, which is roughly 40%. The monitored numbers of newly detected cases over 7 days converted to 100,000 inhabitants are currently around 50 cases; given the population in this region, it is necessary to always consider certain minor fluctuations in the monitored indicators during the daily evaluation, both up and down, which is why it is important to monitor the long-term trend. That trend is positive. Such substantial progress has been seen in the Cheb district, where the current seven-day incidence values are 90% lower compared to the values observed in February. The current situation in this district is best described by the daily average, which has been in single units in the past 7 days, and was more than 180 cases in early February; the decline in the seven-day incidence is also remarkable, as it is currently around 20 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in this district (25; in early February this value was more than 1,400 cases per 100,000 inhabitants), which in absolute figures represents single units of cases. A decline is also being observed outside the Cheb district in the remaining districts, namely Sokolov and Karlovy Vary, where the seven-day incidence is around 60 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in both districts, which is a much lower value than in the period of February and March. Hence, the situation in these districts is stable, which is apparent also in the number of hospitalizations both in total, and in intensive care units. The average daily number of cases reported in the Karlovy Vary region is 21.

Another region where we have seen a consistent and more substantial decline lasting longer than one month is the Hradec Králové region. The current week-on-week decline is 35%. The situation continues to improve in the Trutnov district, as best indicated by the seven-day incidence which has consistently remained around the limit of 40 cases per 100,000 inhabitants and the daily average number of cases is currently fewer than 10, while at the start of February, the average daily number of cases came close to 250, meaning that the current values are more than 20 times lower. Compared to the Trutnov district, we can see slightly higher values in the other districts of the Hradec Králové region, which range from 40 to 90 cases per 100,000 inhabitants per 7 days in the same parameter (Náchod, Rychnov, Hradec Králové, Jičín), but even here there is a continuous decline, especially in the Náchod and Hradec Králové districts that, together with the Trutnov district, were among those worst affected; the seven-day incidence in these districts is currently below 85 cases per 100,000 inhabitants. The seven-day incidence is also lower in the Karlovy Vary and Hradec Králové regions, which currently report 60 cases per 7 days per 100,000 inhabitants; the same applies for the rolling seven-day average, with around 50 cases reported daily on average in the Hradec Králové region; 4 weeks ago this value was more than four times higher, which shows significant progress and overall stabilization, which is also positively reflected in the number of hospitalizations, as in the Karlovy Vary region.

A similar situation can be seen in the Plzeň region, where the decline is continuous, and the current values in a week-on-week comparison are 25% lower; the situation is thus relatively stable, the average daily values are currently at 90 cases, which is significant progress since the start of March, where the daily average values in this region were around 1,000 cases. The seven-day incidence value has also

declined in all the districts and entire Plzeň region, to less than 125 cases per 7 days per 100,000 inhabitants (107); a month ago it was almost 1,000 cases per 100,000 inhabitants.

We are currently observing stabilization across the entire belt of northeast and north Bohemia, which in February and March was among the most affected areas of the Czech Republic; in addition to the Hradec Králové region, where we have seen a continuous and significant decline over a longer time period, a drop has also been monitored in the past two weeks in the Pardubice, Liberec and Ústí regions, although the values in the latter are still relatively higher than in the Pardubice and Liberec regions.

✓ In the Pardubice and Liberec regions, this is a longer-term trend, which is also reflected in the monitored values of the seven-day sliding average and incidence; in these two regions, less than 150 cases on average are reported daily, which is also apparent in the monitored parameter of seven-day incidence, which is below 175 cases per 100,000 inhabitants over 7 days in both the Pardubice and Liberec regions; the average week-on-week decline is currently between 25 and 30%.

✓ In the Ústí region the decline has only been observed for a shorter period of time than in the other regions, and has been more apparent only in the past 14 days, which is why a higher number of cases is still reported in the Ústí region than in the surrounding regions; the average daily increment in this region is around 250 cases, meaning almost double the value in the Liberec and Pardubice regions.

Among the areas of the Czech Republic with the highest number of daily reported cases, despite the decline in the past roughly 4 weeks, is the City of Prague with almost 250 cases per day (248) on average, and Central Bohemia with more than almost 300 daily cases on average in the past 7 days (292); both these regions hold leading ranks in terms of their number of daily increments. However, when converted to 100,000 inhabitants, both are among the regions with the lowest seven-day incidence despite the higher daily figures, which indicates the overall stabilization and positive development both in the capital city, which has seen a decline of more than 70% in the daily average since mid-March, and in Central Bohemia, where the seven-day sliding average has declined since 14 March 2021, from almost 1,800 cases to the current 292 cases on average per day, a drop of more than 60% in the past 30 days.

A gradual stable decline, currently at around 20%, is observed in the South Moravian region, which reports 297 cases on average, and also in the Moravian-Silesian region, which nonetheless currently holds the leading position in terms of the daily case average, that being 346 cases. However, from an overall perspective, both regions are among the least affected regions in the country when converting cases to 100,000 inhabitants, especially the South Moravian region where the seven-day incidence is below the national average. The more persistent problem in both regions is the higher share in the senior group (65+), especially in the Moravian-Silesian region; this figure is declining gradually in South Moravia. The daily average of cases reported in the 65+ age group in the Moravian-Silesian region is 48 cases, which correlates to the higher number of hospitalizations, which are presently the highest in the country in the Moravian-Silesian Region.

The Zlín (233), South Bohemian (217), Olomouc (190), Vysočina (155), Pardubice (132), Liberec (94), Hradec Králové (47) and Karlovy Vary (21) regions are below the limit of 250 cases. With the exception of the Zlín region, the situation in all the regions is fairly stable, as also documented by the decline in the seven-day incidence and total week-on-week decline in the number of cases, which is between 20 to 30%, while in the Zlín region it is currently only about 10%, corresponding to a slowdown of the decline, and the resulting higher incidence, case number and hospitalizations.

Another important indicator of the overall population burden is the number of cases in the 65+ age category where, despite the continued decline, we are still seeing elevated figures; the share of the total is stable, around 15 to 16%, which in absolute figures is currently fewer than 400 cases per day (391; average value for 7 days). The current value, albeit significantly lower (the maximum figures were around 2,000 cases per day), is still high risk because these are very often persons who suffer multiple chronic diseases simultaneously. This increases the probability of later hospitalization of these persons and a more severe course of illness (30-35%). The most cases in this age category are reported in the Moravian-Silesian region (48).

The age structure is still essentially the same, cases are largely registered in the younger to middle-aged generations. More than one third of all cases fall within the 30 to 49 age category. The share of the number of cases in the 6 to 15 age group is currently slightly higher, between 10 to 11% of the total; in absolute figures this is less than 300 cases daily (283) on average in the past week. For pre-school children (0 to 5 years), the share in the past month has been around 4 to 5% of the total. In both age

categories, a higher share has been observed in the last week than was the average share in March; in March and the first week of this month, the share in the 6 to 15 years category was about 9% of the total, while in the 0 to 5 years category it was 3 to 4%; the current figures are thus 1% to 2% higher, but from an overall perspective these are not statistically significant differences; the increase is most likely caused by the current blanket testing of children within the said easing of school attendance. In the coming weeks, the preschool and school age groups will be a closely monitored parameter due to the partial renewal of school and preschool attendance, in order to evaluate the trends and impacts of easing school attendance on the development of the epidemiological situation.

The number of hospitalizations continues to decline significantly, week-on-week, the main cause being the overall decline in cases among vulnerable and senior groups; this trend may be expected to continue in the coming period, because the number of released patients will strongly outweigh the number of new admissions in connection with the development of the epidemiological situation, especially development in the senior group.

On the previous day (22 April), 185 new patients were admitted to hospital, which is a lower value than the daily average admissions on past working days, but despite this positive fact, the value is still considerable.

From a longer-term perspective, the total number of hospitalizations thus has a continuous substantial declining trend, but this changes nothing about the fact that the total strain is still high. There are currently 3,693 patients in hospital and standard care is still partly limited.

The number of hospitalized patients in intensive care is a very important indicator and is relevant in terms of a comprehensive view of the overall burden, because it reflects the current impact of the epidemic and documents the present degree of risk. There are currently 852 patients in ICU, which shows progress in terms of the overall decline compared to the previous period, but on the other hand still poses a significant burden, which is gradually declining in almost all of the regions. The declining number of patients with COVID-19 in the occupancy of intensive care beds confirms the reporting of available bed capacity in the National Inpatient Care Dispatching, according to which most regions are reaching 20% or higher ICU capacity. Currently, none of the regions are reporting a highly critical situation, where the ICU bed capacity would be below 10% of the total.

The overall decline is also shown by the number of patients who require heavy intensive care, which is also declining gradually -> UPV + ECMO: 427 + 21 patients.

An assessment of the adequacy and efficacy of the epidemic measures requires an adequate terminology apparatus that includes at least the concepts of the reproduction number and epidemic dynamic in a simple SEIR model, which we continue to work with. The individual blanket measures have various effects on limiting the spread of contagion. In simplified terms, this effect may be expressed as the reduction of the reproduction number R . Various measures also incur differing costs and damages. The generally used scales of costs in public health protection and demographics are e.g. years of lost life, the evaluation of economic losses in GDP, and another cost of the measure is the restriction of citizens' rights. The rational objective of the set of adopted anti-epidemic measures for COVID-19 must be to reduce the reproduction number R to below 1. In principle, one can imagine other objectives, e.g. the swift establishment of herd immunity, but it would then be necessary to consider the cost of such an objective, where a rapidly progressing epidemic could mean over 100,000 casualties and more than 1 million lost years of life. Such an approach would be entirely contrary to the right to protection of health and life and the mission of public health protection authorities. When evaluating the efficacy of anti-epidemic measures, it is necessary to consider the dynamic of the epidemic. The adequacy of the measures cannot be assessed in an isolated manner at one moment in time, but rather based on the overall result over a longer time period. A reduction of the reproduction number R far below 1 leads to the swifter decline of the contagion, and therefore a seemingly short-term strict solution to the problem actually preserves rights and freedoms better in the long term than somewhat milder restrictions which are valid for a long time. It is particularly essential to avoid simple comparisons in the number of infected or deceased persons at a certain time with the intensity of anti-epidemic measures. The exponential character of the spread of the epidemic means that no situation in which the reproduction number exceeds 1 is sustainable. When assessing the suitability and adequacy of anti-epidemic measures, it is always necessary to evaluate one measure in the context of the entire set of measures. It is impossible to assess each measure on an isolated basis, but it is crucial to take into account the possible overall development of the epidemic and cost of the measures over an extended period of time. If the measures

were introduced from the least to most costly, the benefit of the one that reduces R e.g., from 1.0 to 0.8 is not trivially comparable to one that reduces R from 2.0 to 1.6, because the first one results in fulfilling the condition for managing the epidemic. Even costly and restrictive measures may be entirely adequate under certain circumstances, because they help to stop the epidemic or stop it quickly.

The simplest, but most valid means of considering the adequacy, efficacy and reasonability of measures is to consider the effect of the measure as a reduction of the reproduction number R , in additive or multiplicative form, and compare the effect of the measure with the damage it causes, or how much it infringes on various rights and freedoms. The estimated correlation of R reduction and various measures is the subject of research in epidemic modeling. The existing estimates are, despite their great inaccuracy, the most relevant information to use in decision-making. An evaluation of damages is always a matter of estimates, but also an expression of political will. Expert literature contains various estimates of certain economic damages, but for obvious reasons there are no estimates of all the damages and restrictions to the rights of all citizens. The reasonability of a measure in the simplest terms is the share of reducing R and the cost of the measure (where the cost in the broader sense also means the restriction of rights and freedoms). In the ideal case, public health protection authorities would sort the measures by efficacy, plan a means of stopping the epidemic, and always choose the optimal set of measures with the lowest overall cost. In doing so, they would always first choose the most effective measures. How reasonable the measures are must be assessed in the context of the situation in which they are implemented, and the entire set of other measures.

Although the positive development in March creates room for certain changes in the measures, this room is limited. An evaluation of the situation indicates that a change of measures would result in an undesirable increase of the reproduction number R by about 0.2, leading either to a major slowdown in the decline of the epidemic, or stagnation, which would require the retention of other costly measures for a longer time. The factors which reduce R are: ongoing vaccination, the rising number of recovered patients, voluntary changes in behavior, to some degree probably seasonal effects, testing and isolation. Factors increasing R are the gradual declining in protective behavior and spontaneous growth of the number of contacts. The epidemic situation is also affected by the rise in mobility related to the end of the restrictions on mobility between districts, and the end of the curfew. If strict anti-epidemic measures are observed, the situation should not be significantly affected by the renewal of in-person schooling.

The main objective of the extraordinary measure is to ensure conditions to disrupt the community spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in the Czech Republic and the resulting gradual re-involvement of individual segments of human activity in the economy. This can be achieved through the unified control of quarantine measures, reduced movement and gatherings of persons, restriction of the operation of epidemiologically significant activities, and the definition of conditions for preventive testing, use of protective respiratory equipment and increased frequency of using disinfectant with a virucidal effect on enveloped viruses.

The basic condition for preventing the spread of infectious diseases, whose originators are spread through contaminated droplets (aerosol), is to restrict larger concentrations of persons in one place at one time, and thus minimize high-risk contacts to the essential minimum.

The extraordinary measure, along with the other valid extraordinary measures, is focused so as to ensure a broad range of specific anti-epidemic measures that take into account the principle of preliminary caution in connection with the further spread of the COVID-19 disease.

If none of the extraordinary measures had been implemented, it is impossible to preclude, given experience to date in the Czech Republic and in a number of other countries around the world, that the total number of infected persons could grow at an explosive rate, whereas a very high number of persons with the disease would require hospitalization with intensive care, including connection to artificial lung ventilation. The disease could be fatal to tens of thousands of people.

Similar measures as those adopted in the Czech Republic are implemented by the governments of numerous other countries. If some countries take a different approach to dealing with the COVID-19 epidemic, then this is due to the fact that there is not yet enough information about the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus and its precise properties and characteristics.

Given that, despite the lasting community transmission of COVID-19, the adopted restrictive measures have resulted in a gradual slowdown in the number of new cases and a reduction of the strain on the healthcare system, this extraordinary measure presents an easing of the originally stipulated restrictions

to ensure the anti-epidemic measures to the extent that is possible at present in the context of preliminary caution.

Prudence in the gradual easing and definition of these anti-epidemic measures also depends not only on the spread of the new virus variant SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.7 (the Brazilian strain), which spreads through the population about 40 to 70% faster, but also the confirmed incidence of variant B.1.351 (the South African strain) in the Czech Republic in several regions, which based on evaluation indicates a contagiousness up to 50% higher, and also lower sensitivity to available vaccines, which could 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.

Re: point 1/1

The activity of shops and service establishments is restricted, because these are places where a number of people meet in an enclosed space, which would otherwise not come into contact, and such an environment promotes the further spread of the epidemic.

Given the need to sell certain goods or provide certain services at facilities, exemptions from this prohibition are stipulated:

- sale of foodstuffs - due to the need to allow inhabitants access to food, meaning nutrition,
- shops selling fuel and other supplies for the operation of road motor vehicles - due to the need to ensure transport, such as freight for the transport of goods, as well as personal transport for personal travel within the exceptions from the prohibition of free movement,
- fuel distributors - due to the need to ensure heating both in households and in commercial and manufacturing plants, or at offices,
- sale of hygienic goods, cosmetics and other drug store goods - due to the need to enable the observance of hygienic and other healthy habits,
- pharmacies, dispensers and sellers of medical equipment - due to the need to ensure the availability of medicinal products and medical equipment for inhabitants, because these are life and health saving or supporting products,
- shops with small household pets - due to the essential need for their use in the economy and household breeding,
- stores selling feed and other supplies for animals - due to the need to ensure food and other essentials for animals,
- stores selling spectacles, contact lenses and related goods - due to the need to ensure these products, which serve to compensate for visual disorders; if these were unavailable, people's lives would often be significantly limited,
- stores selling newspapers and magazines - due to the need for access to information; although it may seem that information can be obtained from many other sources such as television, radio or the internet, for a number of people this is still an important source of information about public events including important information concerning the fight against the COVID-19 epidemic,
- stores selling tobacco products - due to the need for access to tobacco products, on which a number of people are dependent; although this is a phenomenon harmful to health, the sudden unavailability of tobacco products would have a negative impact on those seriously addicted to them,
- laundry and dry cleaning services - due to the need to ensure services to the public, especially to keep clothing clean,
- motor vehicle maintenance and repair shops - due to the need to ensure road motor vehicle operation,
- establishments of business providing road motor vehicle towing and repair services - due to the need to ensure the operability of vehicles for the transport of goods and persons,
- shops selling spare parts for means of transport and production equipment - due to the need to ensure the operability of means of transport and production equipment,
- establishments enabling the collection of goods and consignments purchased remotely - given that citizens cannot purchase most other goods (e.g., clothing and footwear, consumer goods, electronics, etc.) by standard means, i.e., in shops, it is necessary to leave the option of procuring these goods in some manner. Remote sale limits the meeting of people in closed spaces (shops) and limits their contact to the time needed to collect the goods purchased remotely. Queues and the number of people at the establishment can then be effectively

regulated using systemic measures (limited number of persons in the establishment, distances between people waiting in a queue), shops selling gardening equipment including seeds and seedlings - due to the forthcoming end of winter, it is necessary to allow farmers but also other lay persons (gardeners) to purchase seeds and seedlings, as well as tools and other essential supplies, because any delay in activity related to the sowing or planting of trees and bushes would have a negative impact on crop yields, which could have a major negative effect on the prices of foodstuffs not only in this calendar year,

travel ticket sales - maintaining the operation of ticket sales is essential in the interest of allowing citizens to travel to work, or to the physician, etc., because not everybody owns an automobile, or is able to use one for various reasons (breakdown, car accident, age, etc.),

flower shops - given the character of goods and in context with the epidemiological risk, not granting an exception would mean high demands on storage in cooling and freezing boxes, because these are goods which come from fresh cultivation, establishments for negotiating the construction and demolition of buildings, project design in construction, geological works, surveying, testing, measuring and analysis in construction - given the need to ensure the performance of construction, project design and related activities in the building sector and secure the needs of business entities and households,

service shops for computer and telecommunications equipment, audio and video receivers, consumer electronics, devices and other household appliances - these repair shops must be left in operation because it is necessary to ensure that households (also given the other restriction of goods and movement) can function as normally as possible and that citizens are able to have appliances repaired in the case of a breakdown of any essential household appliances or computer and telecommunications equipment (also needed for home office),

locksmith shops and maintenance shops for other household products - given the need to ensure household supplies,

establishments for the repair, maintenance and installation of household machines and appliances - given the need to ensure household supplies,

business premises offering funeral services, carrying out embalming and preservation, the incineration of human remains, including the placing of human remains into urns - it is logical that the functioning of these services is essential at any time,

unattended carwashes - washing an automobile in a carwash without an attendant does not pose any increased risk of COVID-19 contagion in epidemiological terms

shops selling household goods and tools, whereas household goods do not refer to furniture, carpets and other floor coverings - in this case, the purpose is to ensure the problem-free operation of households, especially at a time when Czech citizens are obliged to spend most of their time at home due to the restriction of free movement, material collection and buyback facilities and compost yards - exception granted with respect to avoiding potential impacts on the environment, because the composting process, which generates plant waste, also has a specific regime in terms of the creation of humus nutrients, especially in the area of preparations for spring work in agriculture and gardening, establishments (including mobile) selling mourning goods, e.g. wreaths, floral arrangements for graves, mourning candles, etc. - given the need to allow the purchase of mourning goods in connection to funerals and the upkeep of graves, paper shops - given the need for school supplies particularly for children and students who are gradually returning to in-person teaching at schools,

shops selling children's clothing and footwear - given the need for clothing and footwear particularly for children and students who are gradually returning to in-person teaching at schools,

taxi services or other individual contractual personal transport services - as in the case of ticket sales, it is necessary to ensure the possibility for Czech citizens to travel e.g., to work, to the physician or to ensure care for relatives in connection with the restriction of movement, and one of the variants is to use a taxi service, establishments providing psychological consultancy and diagnosis - given the need to

ensure care for mental health and the requirements for diagnoses for working purposes. In the case of other stores and service establishments, the government believes that their operation is not essential for a limited time, given the need to restrict contacts and prevent the spread of the epidemic. The government will regularly review the need to close stores and service establishments and the scope thereof.

Re: point 1/2

The reasons for limiting the operation of catering establishments are the same as in the case of shops and service establishments, because these are places where a number of people meet in an enclosed space, who would otherwise not normally come into contact, and such an environment promotes the further spread of the epidemic. In the case of catering establishments, an added factor is alcohol consumption, after which people lose their inhibitions, respectively act differently than they would if they had not consumed alcoholic beverages.

Because it is essential for certain catering establishments to operate despite the foregoing, the following exemptions from this prohibition are stipulated for:

- establishments which do not serve the public - the aim of the foregoing prohibition is to limit the arbitrary congregation of persons who are not otherwise in regular contact; however, this does not apply e.g., to stabilized collectives of employees, physicians, nurses, other medical and non-medical staff at hospitals, patients at hospitals or inmates and employees at prisons. Given that these cases do not involve arbitrary meetings, because the given persons meet regularly at work or at other places, the risk of the contagion or spread of COVID-19 is not increased by allowing the operation of these establishments,
- school catering facilities for employees present on the workplace and children, pupils and students participating in in-person learning - the same applies as stated above,
- establishments at accommodation facilities, provided they provide catering only to accommodated persons and only between 6:00 a.m. and 9:59 p.m. - despite obvious efforts to restrict population mobility to the maximum possible degree, e.g., by prohibiting the provision of most accommodation services (especially short-term and recreational), it is obvious that some accommodation facilities will remain in operation, e.g., due to business travel. It is then essential to ensure catering for the accommodated persons, especially in a situation where the presence of the public at other catering establishments is prohibited based on this measure. Likewise, it must be noted that not all accommodation facilities are equipped (e.g., the absence of cutlery) to allow the consumption of take-away meals (e.g., from a dispensing window) in the room.

Re: points 1/3,1/4, and 1/5

The listed operations, events and activities, at which there is usually a higher concentration of visitors or participants, are prohibited. In the case of the artistic performances under point 1/3(a) without the attendance of spectators, conditions are stipulated for conducting them in the safest possible manner in epidemiological terms. There are nominal exemptions from the prohibition of in-person rehearsals in point 1/3(c), which were evaluated as essential, with a restricted number of participants.

Re: point 1/6

Likewise, the reasons for prohibiting the provision of accommodation services are the same as per points 1/1/1 and 1/2, because during the provision of accommodation services, especially those of a short-term or recreational character in closed spaces (restaurants, common rooms, bars, lounges, receptions, etc.), a number of people meet, often from various places in the Czech Republic, that would not otherwise normally come into contact, and such an environment promotes the further spread of the epidemic.

However, even in this case it is necessary to stipulate certain exemptions from this prohibition, in that accommodation services can be provided:

- persons for whom this accommodation is essential to perform their employment, occupation, business or similar activities - as stated above, the performance of certain occupations requires business travel, or other shorter or longer stays at places so far from the place of residence that it is not possible to return to the place of residence every day. In these cases, upon fulfillment of the stipulated conditions (written confirmation from the employer or client + record of this confirmation by the accommodation service operator), the provision of accommodation services is permitted,
- persons on whom work duty was imposed pursuant to the Crisis Act - this case obviously concerns an essential activity to manage the fight against the COVID-19 epidemic, which was

directly imposed on the affected persons by law; this often involves the performance of an activity far from the place of residence, which is why the accommodation of these persons must be ensured,

- foreigners, if they have no other place of residence in the Czech Republic and have the right to enter and stay in the Czech Republic in accordance with other regulations - this case refers to foreigners legally staying in the Czech Republic, who do not have any other accommodation options (e.g., rented house or apartment) than accommodation at accommodation facilities,
- persons who were ordered into isolation or quarantine - there may be cases when the persons on who one of the aforementioned measures was imposed have no place to return to, e.g., because they live in a household with a person for whom the risk of COVID-19 contagion would be excessively high given their age or comorbidities, whereas these persons have no other place where they could stay during the period of isolation or quarantine (other apartment, cottage, recreational vehicle, etc.). For these persons, it is necessary to ensure the possibility of using accommodation services for the required time,
- persons for the purpose of concluding accommodation commenced before the effective date of this government resolution, if they have no other place to stay in the Czech Republic - as at the effective date of this crisis measures, persons may stay in the Czech Republic who commenced there stay at a time when this was still possible, but had no other accommodation option when the prohibition of providing accommodation services came into validity in CZ; these persons must be allowed to complete their stay, ideally at the place where they have already been accommodation for some time,
- persons who are accommodated for the purpose of being provided with healthcare services, and their required accompaniment - it is possible to move freely about the Czech Republic for the purpose of receiving medical care, whereas it must be admitted that some medical procedures require the patient to be assisted by a third party after the procedure (and sometimes also before it), e.g., when returning to the place of residence, when moving about the hospital, or if the patient is a child,
- persons in need of housing, whose accommodation was arranged by the local government.

Re: point 1/7

Due to the existence of a number of essential exemptions and in the interest of maximally restricting contact between people, with respect to the prohibition of retail sales and the sale and provision of services under point 1/1, it is also necessary to regulate the opening hours of these stores and service establishments, so as to allow enough time to procure the necessary purchases and other matters, meaning a total of 16 hours. For the remaining 8 hours (evening and night), the stores and establishments are closed, which can also have an impact - in addition to restricting contact between persons - on sufficient rest for the employees of these stores and establishments. Several clearly defined exemptions from this prohibition are stipulated, without which there could be e.g., a collapse in transport due to running out of fuel (filling stations), the impossibility of obtaining and administering essential medicines (pharmacies), impossibility of refreshment for medical and non-medical staff at healthcare facilities (shops or catering services), refreshment at airports or train stations during long trips, e.g., with a transfer, etc.

Re: point 1/8

The reasons for prohibiting sale at markets, marketplaces and mobile shops are precisely the same as for prohibiting the activity of stores and service establishments, because despite the fact that these are often open-air spaces, they are places where a number of people who would not otherwise come into contact meet on a small and often restricted space, and such environment promotes the spreading of the epidemic. However, an exemption must be granted for mobile stores which supply basic goods (foodstuffs and drug store goods) to citizens living in municipalities where it is not possible to procure basic life and hygienic needs, and this is ensure by mobile stores with grocery and drug store goods. In the case of ambulant and door-to-door sales, there is often contact between the salesperson - customer in a closed space, i.e., the customer's apartment, which can threaten their health. An exception from the prohibition is also stipulated for farmer's markets, because these involve the sale of foodstuffs which are typically grown and produced by farmers in the Czech Republic.

Re: point 1/9

Rules are stipulated for the operation of catering establishments, where the public presence at the establishment is not prohibited, meaning establishments which do not serve the public (e.g., employee canteens, catering for healthcare services and social services providers, at prison facilities), school catering establishments for employees present on the workplace and children, pupils and students participating in in-person education, and establishments at accommodation facilities under the condition that they provide meals only to accommodated persons. It is necessary to allow catering to these persons, but under the condition of minimizing high-risk contacts. Customers must be seated so that there is a distance of at least 1.5 meters between them, except for customers sitting at one table; a maximum of 4 customers may be seated at one table, except for members of the same household; if the table is long, more customers may be seated at it, so that there is a distance of at least 2 meters between groups of at most 4 customers, except members of the same household. Furthermore, the operator must not allow a greater number of customers into the indoor premises of the establishment than the number of seats available to customers in the indoor premises of the establishment; the operator is obliged to keep a written record of the current number of seats for customers; In order for the customer not to remain at the establishment after consuming the meal, the production of live music and dancing is prohibited and a wireless internet connection must not be provided to the public.

Re: point 1/10

Contacts between customers consuming food and meals are restricted in the case of sales from catering establishments outside their indoor premises (i.e., a dispensing window), in that these persons are obliged to maintain a distance of at least 2 meters from other persons in the vicinity of the establishment, unless they are members of the same household.

Re: point 1/11

The operation of musical, dance, acting and similar social clubs and discotheques is restricted, in that the public presence at these venues is prohibited, to thus limit contacts during these leisure activities.

Re: point 1/12

Hygienic rules are stipulated for the activity of shopping centers with an area exceeding 5000 m², so as to prevent the congregation of persons and high-risk contact between them. The use of rest areas (chairs, lounges, benches, etc.) will be restricted so that people do not gather in these places, and the option of wireless connection to the internet for the public must not be provided. In order for these rules to be observed, the operator must ensure at least one person to supervise their fulfillment. Instructions for customers are communicated to customers and other persons primarily through information signs, posters, on displays, intercoms, etc. The operator is obliged to ensure the visible posting of instructions to maintain a distance of 2 meters between persons in the publicly accessible areas of the shopping Centre (e.g., by means of infographics, adverts on the center's radio, infographics at the entrance to stores and other facilities, infographics on the floors of public areas, etc.). The gathering of persons will be restricted, particularly in areas where this can be expected, e.g., in the underground garages, areas in front of elevators, escalators, travellers, bathrooms, etc. In order to prevent the undesirable congregation of persons, the operation of children's play corners is prohibited. To prevent the spread of the epidemic, the operator is obliged to ensure the maximum possible air circulation with the intake of outdoor air (ventilation or air-conditioning) without air recirculation in the building. To prevent the congregation of persons, promotional activities where there is a person present to ensure their progress are prohibited in shops. Sales from catering establishments located in shopping centers are only possible through a dispensing window or as take-away meals, whereas the reason is again to prevent customers from remaining at the catering establishments and thus coming into high-risk contact with others.

Re: point 1/13

Hygienic rules are stipulated for the operation of establishments pursuant to point 1/1, the operation of which is prohibited so as to prevent the congregation of persons and high-risk contact between them.

The operator will not allow more than 1 customer per 15 m² of sales area in an establishment; in the case of establishments with a sales area of less than 15 m², this restriction does not apply to a child under 15 years of age accompanying a customer or a person accompanying a customer who holds a medical disability pass; in the case of other establishments, this restriction does not apply to a child under 6 years of age accompanying a customer. The sales area refers to the part of the business premises designated for the sale and display of goods, i.e., the total area accessible to customers, including dressing rooms, the area taken up by tills and displays and the area behind the tills used by the sales staff; the sales area does not include offices, warehouses and preparation areas, workshops, stairs, changing rooms and other social facilities. The operator is also obliged to actively prevent customers from coming closer than 2 meters to each other, unless these are persons from the same household. They must ensure the management of queues of waiting customers, both inside and outside the store, particularly by marking the waiting area and placing symbols indicating the minimum distance between customers (minimum distance of 2 m), whereas a customer who holds a medical disability pass has a priority right to shop. A very important resource against the spread of the epidemic is disinfectant, and the operator is obliged to place disinfectants near frequently touched objects (especially handles, railings, shopping carts), so that they are available to employees and customers of the establishment and can be used for regular disinfection. As stated above, the operator is obliged to ensure information for customers about the aforementioned rules, in particular by means of informative posters at the entrance to the establishment or by stating the rules through loudspeaker announcements in the establishment, and to ensure the maximum possible circulation of air by taking in outdoor air (ventilation or air conditioning) without recirculating air in the building. At these establishments, promotional activities where there is a person present to ensure their progress are prohibited. It is expressly stipulated that in the case of a person pushing a pram with a child, the operator must not oblige them to use a shopping trolley to shop, and the child in the pram is not included in the total number of persons permitted to be in the sales area.

Re: point 1/14

Hygienic rules are stipulated for the operation of driving schools so as to ensure the protection of teachers, students and testing commissioners.

Re: point 1/15

The provision of rehabilitation spa care is restricted in that henceforth it can only be provided to patients for whom it will be at least partly paid from public health insurance, in order to limit the number of contacts at spa facilities, where clusters of infected persons occur repeatedly in very high numbers. Moreover, cases have been noted when this type of medical care is seemingly provided, but it is actually a wellness stay or wellness service. The condition of payment from public health insurance appears to be a suitable control element for the genuine need of providing spa care.

Re: points 1/16, 1/17 and 1/18

Mass events for more than 2 people indoors or outdoors are restricted due to the need to limit contacts between people. An exception is stipulated for weddings, ceremonies for persons entering into registered partnerships and funerals. Another exception is stipulated for meetings, assemblies and similar events of the constitutional bodies, public authorities, courts and other public entities, which are held by law, and for assemblies held pursuant to Act No. 84/1990 Coll., on the Right of Assembly, as amended.

On a general level, the effect of restricting the gather of persons from various households on the spread of the epidemic is obvious. An overview of available literature shows that the prohibition of public assembly and restriction of private assembly is one of the most effective blanket measures according to an analysis of the measures adopted in many different countries and epidemic models based on these data (see Perra, N. (2021). Non-pharmaceutical interventions during the COVID-19 pandemic: A review. Phys. Rep.). There is remarkable agreement in expert literature on the effect of restricting assembly. The question of active research is how the anti-epidemic effect of restricting assembly depends on the number of persons. The latest outcome in this sense is the survey *Understanding the effectiveness of government interventions in Europe's second wave of COVID-19* (see Sharma, M., Mindermann, S., Rogers-Smith, C., Leech, G., Snodin, B. Ahuja, J., Sandbrink, J.B., Monrad, J.T., Altman, G., Dhaliwal, G., et al. (2021). Understanding the effectiveness of government interventions in Europe's second wave

of COVID-19. medRxiv.), based on an analysis of data from European countries including the Czech Republic. Although the research has not yet been reviewed and is based on observational data including the ensuing restrictions, it is better to refer to the existing research than not to consider the data at all. According to Sharma, M., Mindermann S., Rogers-Smith, C., Leech, G., Snodin, B., Ahuja, J., Sandbrink, J.B., Monrad, J.T., Altman, G., Dhaliwal, G., et al. (2021). Understanding the effectiveness of government interventions in Europe's second wave of COVID-19. medRxiv. the greatest part of the effect in restricting gathering is correlated to a restriction to 2 persons. A complete prohibition of meeting does not have significantly higher effect. On the contrary, the difference between a restriction to 10 people and 2 people is greater than the difference between a restriction to 10 people and no restriction of gathering at all. This conclusion, based on data, corresponds well to the practical finding of epidemiological research, where the meeting of 10 people indoors includes very high risk situations such as celebrations and parties. The restriction of gathering to 2 people can therefore be assessed as effective according to available research, where the potential effect is a reduction of R by roughly 10-30% compared to a situation with no restriction of gathering (rounded off). This reduction is particularly important in the context of the epidemic situation with R at an estimated level of 0.7 to 0.9, where under the riskiest circumstances the growth of R 0.9 by 30% could even revert the declining trend of the epidemic to growth. Given the change of many measures from 12 April 2021 due to the end of the state of emergency, it is possible that there will be some growth due to the other changes, and it is possible that the space for easing measures will be even smaller than indicated by the estimated R 0.7 - 0.9. The restriction of gathering to 2 people is also highly restrictive, infringing on the natural right and need of citizens to meet. Nevertheless, in the context of the other measures, this restriction is likely to cause less damage to society than other measures, specifically the broad scope of remote schooling (see Jann, O., Münich, D., and Zaplová, L. (2021). The lockout of in-person schooling during the COVID-19 pandemic: estimated invisible economic losses (National Economic Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences, v.v.i.)) or the restriction of trade and services. In terms of adequacy, this restriction seems relatively more favorable in terms of effect than the restriction of in-person schooling or restriction of trade and services. This conclusion of evaluating adequacy is also common in many other European countries.

As concerns adequacy, it is also necessary to take into account the context of other measures, their synergic or mutually disruptive effects. Permitting gatherings in greater numbers would have a potentially disruptive effect on the system of measures in education, which is based on homogeneous groups where children meet only with the same group of classmates. If children from many various classes and schools mix in the afternoon during sports and leisure activities, this increases the risk of spreading the contagion at schools. Yet in terms of societal interest and the opinion of the Ministry of Health, Youth and Sports, in-person schooling for the greatest number of pupils takes clear precedence over e.g. sports or leisure meetings. Permitting gathering in larger numbers would put pressure on evading the restriction of risky operations, e.g. catering or sports in the form of various club or private events.

In accordance with the conclusions of the judgment of the Supreme Administrative Court of 22 April 2021, Case No. 6 Ao 11/2021, a private or public event refers to an organized activity or social event organized for a specific purpose and directed towards a specific objective. The prohibition of holding public or private events does not apply to situations such as visits to parents or siblings who do not live in common households, because these cannot be considered organized (or held or staged) events, even if the participants in accordance with social conventions agree to such a visit, are invited to it, invite themselves or simply announce themselves beforehand.

The rules are stipulated similarly for the holding of assemblies pursuant to Act No. 84/1990 Coll., on the Right of Assembly, as amended, and the rules for holding the elections to the bodies of legal entities and meetings of the bodies of legal entities, except for the bodies of local government bodies.

Re: point 1/19

The range of persons who are allowed to enter certain indoor premises if they do not exhibit any symptoms of the COVID-19 disease is determined on the basis of current scientific knowledge about acquired immunity or the spread of COVID-19; these persons have either already had the disease, and it is assumed that according to the current international recommendations by the ECDC and CDC, the level of antibodies which protect against reinfection in the majority of cases is sufficient in the period of 90 days from having caught the disease, or were properly vaccinated with all of the required doses of the COVID-90 vaccine in accordance with the summary of product characteristics (SPC), and at least 14 days have passed since the administration of the last dose according to the vaccination scheme. This period is considered sufficient to create an adequate level of antibodies, which in most cases protect against infection. An alternative to demonstrating presumably acquired immunity after having had the disease or having completed vaccination in order to access certain indoor premises is the presentation of a negative result of an RT-PCR test for the presence of SARS-CoV-2 virus no more than 7 days old, or the negative result of a POC test for the presence of SARS-CoV-2 virus antigen, performed by a healthcare professional, which must be no more than 72 hours old from the sampling of the biological material. In the case of a negative test result, the risk of spreading the disease is low (see Michael J. Mina M.D., Ph.D., Ro/ Parker Ph.D., and Daniel B. Larremore, Ph.D.: Rethinking Covid-19 Test Sensitivity — A Strategy for Containment. N Engl J Med 2020).

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