

Prague, 27 April 2021

Ref. No.: MZDR 14592/2021-7/MIN/KAN
MZDRX01FR5CO

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 3 May 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, the Extraordinary Measure of 19 April 2021, Ref. No. 14592/2021-5/MIN/KAN, and the Extraordinary Measure of 22 April 2021, Ref. No. MZDR 14592/2021-6/MIN/KAN, is amended in that Art. I reads:

“I.

1. A child, pupil or student that is not prohibited from attending in-person schooling under another extraordinary measure or crisis measure, and is a child or pupil of a preschool, primary school, special primary school, lower levels of six-year or eight-year high school, first four years of an eight-year conservatory curriculum, field of education at a one-year practical school or two-year practical school, pupil or student participating in practical schooling or practical training at a secondary school or college, pupil of a school or student of a college that participates in group consultations or examinations at college, final examinations, school-leaving examinations or discharge examinations, will only be allowed to attend the given school in person if
 - a) they do not have symptoms of COVID-19, and
 - b) they have taken a non-invasive preventive antigen test for the SARS-CoV-2 virus antigen at the frequency stipulated pursuant to Art. III, performed on their own or performed by another person and provided by the school (hereinafter the “preventive antigen test”), and submits the negative result of this test, unless stipulated otherwise in Art. II.

The restriction pursuant to the first sentence does not apply to children in preschool in the Hradec Králové Region, Karlovy Vary and Plzeň Regions, as well as to individual consultations and individual in-person teaching or other individual activity. The school may only conduct tests using the tests designated for self-testing or permitted for use by non-professionals by the Ministry of Health.

2. If the child, pupil or student with moderate or severe mental disabilities, multiple concurrent disabilities or disorders on the autism spectrum cannot undergo a preventive antigen test pursuant to paragraph 1(b) and proves these fact by means of a confirmation issued by a healthcare service provider, they will be considered a child, pupil or student whose school or school facility, which they attend, is closed due to an extraordinary measure during the epidemic.”

II.

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

Rationale:

For reasons of renewing in-person schooling for students in the lower of years of six-year and eight-year high schools and eight-year conservatory curricula, this obligation is imposed on students of selected years of the said secondary schools as a condition for renewing in-person education, in accordance with the obligation of preventive testing.

The possibility remains to omit the testing obligation among children, pupils and students with health disabilities, i.e. moderate or severe mental disabilities, concurrent affliction with multiple defects or a disorder on the autism spectrum, but these children are not allowed to attend in-person schooling. Given the COVID-19 epidemiological situation, children, pupils or students with moderate or severe mental disabilities, concurrent affliction with multiple defects or a disorder on the autism spectrum cannot be exempted from the obligation to undergo preventive testing as a condition for in-person schooling. For this reason, the legal guardians/parents of these children, pupils or students may draw on an allowance for the care of a family member, if the child, pupil or student cannot undergo preventive testing for health reasons.

An exemption from the obligation of testing as a condition for attending schooling applies to children at preschools in the Hradec Králové, Plzeň and Karlovy Vary Regions, due to the current favorable epidemiological situation in the incidence of COVID-19 in these regions, which is characterized by the gradual and continuous decline in all the monitored parameters, i.e. values of 7-day incidence, 7-day rolling average, number of cases in the senior group, number of hospitalizations, both total and in intensive care.

V In the Karlovy Vary and Hradec Králové Region, the 7-day incidence is around 50 cases per 100,000 inhabitants per 7 days, which is a value three times lower than the national average, while in the Plzeň Region the 7-day incidence value is on the limit of 100 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, meaning far below the national average.

The daily number of new cases of COVID-19 in individual districts of the Karlovy Vary region is in single digits, while the 7-day rolling average in this region is less than 20 cases; the situation is similar in the Hradec Králové region, where the daily average is around 40 cases, while in the Plzeň region this value is around 80 cases on average per day.

An important indicator of the total population load is the number of cases in the 65+ age category.

V In the Karlovy Vary and Hradec Králové regions, only single units of cases among persons aged over 65 are reported, while in the Plzeň region the daily average is about 10 persons in this age category.

Single-digit daily figures are reported in the individual districts of the assessed regions in the 0 to 5 years and 6 to 15 years age categories.

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