



Prague, 6 May 2021,
Ref. No. MZDR 40555/2020-
6/MIN/KAN

MZDRX01FWS1X

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 from the further spread of COVID-19 caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2:

I.

Effective from 12:00 a.m. on 7 March 2021 until this Extraordinary Measure is repealed, all healthcare service providers in the fields of general practical medicine or pediatric practical medicine, all regional public health authorities and the City of Prague Public Health Authority are ordered to act to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 epidemic, in that they terminate isolation for persons in whom sequencing confirmed the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus line B.1.357 ("South African variant") or line B.1.617 ("Brazilian variant") or line B.1.617 ("Indian variant"), after performing a RT-PCR test for the presence of SARS-CoV-2 virus with a negative result, at earliest after 14 days from taking the sample of the positive test.

II.

Effective from 12:00 a.m. on 7 March 2021 until this Extraordinary Measure is repealed, all healthcare service providers in the fields of general practical medicine or pediatric practical medicine, all regional public health authorities and the City of Prague Public Health Authority are ordered to act to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 epidemic, in that they terminate imposed quarantine measures for all persons who, based on epidemiological investigations, were identified as persons in close contact with a person who has a positive RT-PCR test result for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, and sequencing conducted regarding this person has proven the SARS-CoV-2 line B.1.357 ("South African variant") or line B.1.617 ("Brazilian variant") or line B.1.617 ("Indian variant"), after performing a RT-PCR test for the presence of SARS-CoV-2 virus with a negative result, at earliest after 14 days from last coming into contact with the positively tested person.

III.

Effective from 7 May 2021, the Extraordinary Measure of the Ministry of Health of 8 March 2021, Ref. No. MZDR 40555/2020-5/MIN/KAN, is repealed.

IV.

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

Rationale:

Extraordinary Measure Ref. No. MZDR 40555/2020-4/MIN/KAN of 2 March 2021 stipulates the procedure for imposing isolation on all persons in whom the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus was identified, and the procedure for imposing quarantine or quarantine measures on persons who were in epidemiologically relevant contact with positive persons. Due to the rapid spread of the “South African variant”, “Brazilian variant” and new “Indian variant”, about which there is insufficient information regarding the speed of transmission, severity of the illness and insufficient knowledge about the efficacy of vaccination against these variants, the Ministry of Health has decided to change the method of terminating isolation and quarantine measures, with a new requirement for a negative RT-PCR test to terminate isolation or quarantine measures for persons in whom any of these variants was confirmed. This procedure has so far been applied only to the “South African variant” and is now extended to the other two specified variants. This procedure reduces the probability of the spread of these variants through the population. Detailed information about the variant is provided in the ECDC [Risk assessment: SARS-CoV-2 - increased circulation of variants of concern and vaccine rollout in the EU/EEA, 14th update \(europa.eu\).](https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2021-04-19_Variable_Dictionary_and_Disclaimer_variant-data.pdf), https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2021-04-19_Variable_Dictionary_and_Disclaimer_variant-data.pdf

The cause for the increase in sickness in India is said to be the spread of the new virus variant B.1.617. Given that the rapid spread of this variant is fairly recent and there is a lack of detailed data about its characteristics, the WHO has not yet classified it as a variant of concern as is the case of the British, South African and Brazilian variants (British authorities currently classify it as a variant under investigation).

In other respects, the extraordinary measures on imposing and terminating isolation and quarantine measures of 2 March 2021 remain unchanged.

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