



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

Prague, 11 May 2021,
Ref. No. MZDR 14597/2021-
2/MIN/KAN

MZDRX01FYDIR

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)(i) and (2) of Act No. 258/2000 Coll., and pursuant to Section 2(2)(h) 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 17 May 2021 until the cancellation of this Extraordinary Measure:

1. restricts visits to patients at all healthcare service providers, in that the visit may only be permitted under the condition that the person visiting the patient undergoes a POC test with a negative result for the presence of antigens against the SARS CoV- 2 virus before the visit; this requirement does not apply to persons who
 - a) have taken an RT-PCR test to determine the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus or a POC test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus antigen with a negative result no more than 48 hours before the start of the visit, and present a document thereof,
 - b) who have a certificate of 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 the 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 the vaccine in the case of a single-dose scheme in accordance with the SPC, and the vaccinated person is not showing any COVID-19 symptoms, or
 - c) have 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;

the person visiting a patient, who meets one of the foregoing conditions, may conduct the visit under the condition that throughout the visit, they use protection of their airways (nose, mouth), which is a respirator or similar device (always without an exhalation valve)

meeting at least all the technical conditions and requirements (for a product), including filtration effectiveness of at least 94% in accordance with the relevant standards (e.g. FFP2/KN 95), [except for

children under two years of age who are not required to use protection of the airways, and except for children from two to fifteen years of age, if they have other protection of the airways (nose, mouth) that prevents the spread of droplets], and while observing the provider's other systemic measures,

2. prohibits all healthcare service providers from allowing the presence of a third party during childbirth at a healthcare facility, if the following conditions are not met:
 - childbirth takes place in a separate birthing room or box with its own social amenities,
 - contact between the third party and other birthing mothers is restricted,
 - a third person is subject to the same rules as person visiting a patient pursuant to point 1,

3. limits visits to users among all social service providers, at homes for seniors and homes with special regimes, and all social service residential facilities (pursuant to Sections 44, 49 and 50 of Act No. 108/2006 Coll., on Social Services), in that visits may only be permitted under the condition that the person visiting the user undergoes a POC test for the presence of antigens against the SARS-CoV-2 virus with a negative result before commencing the visit; this requirement does not apply to persons who
 - a) have taken an RT-PCR test to determine the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus or a POC test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus antigen with a negative result no more than 48 hours before the start of the visit, and present a document thereof,
 - b) who have a certificate of 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 the 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 the vaccine in the case of a single-dose scheme in accordance with the SPC, and the vaccinated person is not showing any COVID-19 symptoms, or
 - c) have 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;

a person visiting a user who fulfills one of the foregoing conditions may conduct the visit under the condition that they use protective respiratory equipment (nose, mouth) throughout the visit, that being a respirator or similar device (always without an exhalation valve) meeting at least all the technical conditions and requirements (for a product), including filtration effectiveness of at least 94% in accordance with the relevant standards (e.g. FFP2/KN 95) [with the exception of children under two years of age, who are not required to wear protective respiratory equipment, and with the exception of children aged two to fifteen years if they have other protective respiratory equipment (nose, mouth) to prevent the spread of droplets], and while observing the other systemic measures imposed by the provider; in the case of visits to users in the terminal stage of an incurable disease, the visit may be permitted under the condition that the person visiting the user observes the provider's systemic measures.

II.

This Extraordinary Measure takes effect on the date of its issue.

III.

Effective from 12:00 a.m. on 17 May 2021, the extraordinary measure of the Ministry of Health of 6 April 2021, Ref. No. MZDR 14597/2021-1/MIN/KAN, is repealed.

Rationale:

New measures and conditions are stipulated to allow visits to patients at all healthcare facilities. The anti-epidemic measures reflect the current epidemiological situation in the incidence of COVID-19 in the Czech Republic, which despite the current positive trend in the development of the epidemic, characterized by a continuous decline in all the monitored indicators, i.e. 7-day incidence value, test positivity, number cases in the 65+ age category and number of hospitalisations, both total and in intensive care units, is still unfavourable, because the daily case numbers on weekdays are still in single thousands and the epidemic still shows signs of community transmission.

The defined conditions for visits are important in order to protect vulnerable population groups (seniors, immunocompromised persons), who are more likely to suffer a more severe course of COVID-19 disease than healthy individuals. For this reason and in connection to the higher number of persons sensitive to contagion at these facilities, it is necessary to define such preventive measures, the aim of which is to prevent the spread of infection at healthcare facilities and social service facilities and to minimize the risk of transmission both to employees and patients at healthcare facilities and clients at social service facilities. This refers primarily to the proof of “non-infectiousness” of the visitor and the obligation to use protection of the airways (nose, mouth) with higher efficacy throughout the visit.

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