



Prague, 11 May 2021,
Ref. No. MZDR 14592/2021-
11/MIN/KAN

MZDRX01FZCRC

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 17 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, the Extraordinary Measure of 22 April 2021, Ref. No. MZDR 14592/2021-6/MIN/KAN, the Extraordinary Measure of 30 April 2021, Ref. No. MZDR 14592/2021-8/MIN/KAN, the Extraordinary Measure of 6 May 2021, Ref. No. MZDR 14592/2021-9/MIN/KAN, and the Extraordinary Measure of 7 May 2021, Ref. No. MZDR 14592/2021-10/MIN/KAN are amended in that:

1. Art. III reads:

„III.

A preventive antigen test is performed with the following frequency:

- a) twice per week in the South Bohemia, Ústí, Olomouc, Moravia-Silesia, South Moravia, Zlín and Vysočina regions in case of pupils in the 2nd level of primary school, pupils in lower years of six-year and eight-year grammar schools and the first four years of eight-year study programs at a conservatory, whereas the first test is carried on the first day of personal attendance by the child, pupil or student at the school in the given week, and whereas there should be at least 2 and at most 3 workdays between individual test dates,
- b) once per week in case of pupils in the 2nd level of primary schools in classes or schools pursuant to Section 16(9) of the Schools Act, whereas the test will be performed on the first day of personal attendance of the child, pupil or student at school in the week,
- c) once per week in other cases, whereas the test will be performed on the first day of personal attendance of the child, pupil or student at school in the week.

The preventive tests are always performed immediately after arriving at school. If the child, pupil or student is not present on the date of testing at school, the test will be performed on the date of their arrival.

2. Art. XVII reads:

“XVII.

The school or school facility may replace testing using antigen tests to stipulate the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus antigen with testing using RT-PCR tests for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, provided it has non-invasive diagnostic in vitro resources for the performance of self-sampling designated for the subsequent performance of the RT-PCR test, and if it has arranged for the performance of RT-PCR tests with a healthcare service provider named in the list of analysis laboratories of the State Institute of Public Health (<http://www.szu.cz/tema/prevence/laboratorni-vysetrovani-puvodce-covid-19>). Art. I, II, IV, V a VII, X, XI, XIII, XIV and XVI shall apply *mutatis mutandis*, in that:

- a) preventive testing is performed with a frequency of once every two weeks,
- b) if the pupil or student is not present on the date of testing at school, the test will be performed on the date of their arrival,
- c) the school or school facility in cooperation with the school educational or accommodation facility or school group will send a list pursuant to Art. VII of children, pupils or students who were in contact with a child, pupil or student that tested positive at these school facilities,
- d) this non-invasive RT-PCR cannot be substituted by submitting the result of a POC antigen test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus antigen performed by a healthcare service provider.

The healthcare service provider in the field of general medicine or general pediatric medicine, which was informed about the positive result of a preventive RT-PCR test pursuant to the first sentence, proceeds according to the extraordinary measure of the Ministry of Health on the ordering of isolation and quarantine.”

II.

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

Rationale:

The extraordinary measure amends the frequency of preventive testing of children for the presence of SARS-CoV-2 virus antigen or RNA at schools and school facilities. Given the improving epidemiological situation, the interval is stipulated for preventive tests in groups of children or students who were previously tested regularly once every 7 days. Pupils on the 2nd level of primary school, pupils on the lower levels of six-year or eight-year high school and in the first four years of eight-year conservatory educational programs at these schools in the Karlovy Vary, Hradec Králové, Liberec, Pardubice, Plzeň, South Bohemia regions and in the City of Prague undergo antigen tests twice per week

3. from May 2021, i.e. since they were allowed to attend schooling in person. Given that until 16 May 2021, all the classes will be tested twice in one week within the rotation system (odd and even week), it is possible to stipulate preventive antigen testing only once per week for these schools, given the lower epidemiological risk.

If using more sensitive RT-PCR tests, the testing interval is stipulated at once every 14 days in all the tested groups in all the regions.

The modified frequency of testing is based on the differing kinetics of excreting virus antigen and viral RNA, where the protein antigen is excreted for approximately 5 days while the viral RNA is usually excreted for 2-3 weeks. The modified frequency of testing complies with the COVID-19 Testing Strategy for the 2020/2021 season of respiratory diseases

<https://ppo.mzcr.cz/upload/files/narodni-strategie-testovani-onemocneni-covid-19-a-ostatni-dokumenty-strategie-testova-ni-covid-19-v2-0-15-12-2020-6061f409a770e.pdf>) and

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primarily to detect clusters of COVID-19 at schools during a period characterized by the gradual and continuous decline of all the monitored parameters, i.e. value of 7-day incidence, 7-day rolling average, number of cases in all population groups, and number of hospitalisations, both in total and in intensive care units.

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