



Prague, 7 June 2021

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PROTECTIVE MEASURE

The Ministry of Health, as the competent administrative authority, pursuant to Section 80(1)(h) of Act No. 258/2000 Coll., on Public Health Protection and amendments to certain related acts, as amended (hereinafter referred to as “Act No. 258/2000 Coll.”), **orders** this Protective Measure, proceeding pursuant to Section 68(1) of Act No. 258/2000 Coll., in order to liquidate the risk of the occurrence of the COVID-19 disease caused by the new SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus:

Effective from 12:00 a.m. of 21 June 2021 until the cancellation of this extraordinary measure:

1. a certificate of vaccination issued by the Republic of Serbia shall be considered as a national certificate of vaccination for the purposes of epidemiological measures concerning entering and staying in the territory of the Czech Republic
2. a specimen certificate is published on the website of the Ministry of Health.

Rationale:

In view of progressing vaccination in the EU/EEA countries, the European Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (ECDC) has issued instructions on 21 April 2021 for the possible easing of restrictions imposed to reduce the risk of transmission for those persons who have already received complete vaccination against COVID-19 (i.e. at least two weeks after the second dose of the vaccine from Pfizer/BioNTech, AstraZeneca or Moderna or the single-dose vaccine from Johnson and Johnson). Based on the results to date concerning the effectiveness of vaccination using vaccines approved by the European Medicines Agency (EMA), the ECDC concludes that fully vaccinated persons have a very low risk of contracting SARS-CoV-2 and, in the case of infection, a very low to low risk of transmission to an unvaccinated person (in the case of infection in an unvaccinated person, the severity of the course of infection depends mainly on the age of the unvaccinated person and other risk factors such as the age of the unvaccinated person and other diseases).

For this reason, the ECDC concludes that in the case of persons who have completed vaccination, the member states may proceed to ease non-pharmaceutical interventions. One of the areas in which the ECDC believes that existing restrictions can be relaxed is travel. The likelihood of a fully vaccinated traveler posing a risk on arrival to the country is low, according to the conclusions. Therefore, measures such as the requirement to confirm infection-free status through a negative test before or after travel or the requirement to quarantine upon arrival (which may be waived or reduced in length) may be relaxed or waived for such persons. However, the ECDC also notes that in approaching such easing, other factors influencing the level of risk of possible infection need to be taken into account - in particular, the epidemic situation in the country of departure with regard to the emergence of new variants for which there is no clear evidence of vaccine effectiveness, and the type of vaccine used (i.e. whether it is a vaccine with low or unknown efficacy against the disease) Vaccinated persons should also

fully comply with the regulations in force for vaccinated persons in the given country upon arrival.

On the basis of this expertise, the protective measure eases the rules for Czech citizens and residents of the Czech Republic who have been fully vaccinated in the Czech Republic and are returning from a medium-risk or high-risk country. For the reasons described above, there is no such easing in the case of return from very high-risk countries, mainly due to the higher risk of new mutations. For control reasons, in the absence of a uniform procedure within the EU and the possibility of verifying the authenticity of a certificate issued by another Member State and to prevent possible misuse, and given that easing for vaccinated persons is indeed very crucial, which is why it is necessary to be sure that the person has actually been vaccinated, this easing is primarily applied only to vaccination certificates issued in the Czech Republic.

Based on an agreement among the representatives of 7 countries, the concept of a vaccinated person has been extended as of 1 June 2021 to persons vaccinated in 7 countries - Germany, Poland, Slovakia, Austria, Slovenia, Hungary and Croatia, provided that the specimen vaccination certificate is published on the website of the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic.

Based on an agreement among the highest constitutional officials, a proposal was also made to mutually recognise the vaccination certificates issued by the Republic of Serbia, taking into account the stable epidemic situation in the Republic of Serbia and the high vaccination rate. The recognition of vaccination certificates of the Republic of Serbia in the EU through an implementing act is expected in the near future.

The emerging EU COVID certificate will subsequently allow for verification of the authenticity of documents other than those recorded in the national database.

Mgr. et Mgr. Adam Vojtěch, MHA, undersigned
Minister of Health