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 (hereinafter referred to as “Act No. 258/2000 Coll.”), orders this Extraordinary Measure, proceeding pursuant to Section 69(1)(i) and (2) of Act No. 258/2000 Coll., to protect the population and prevent the occurrence and spread of COVID-19 caused by the novel SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus:

I.

Effective from 12:00 a.m. on 15 June 2021, the Extraordinary Measure of 7 June 2021, ref. no. MZDR 15757/2020-53/MIN/KAN, is amended, this being in such a way that:

1. in Art I(3)(c), the words “with the exception of the South Bohemian Region, the Liberec Region and the Zlín Region,” is deleted;

2. in Art I(3)(d), the words “with the exception of the South Bohemian Region, the Liberec Region and the Zlín Region,” is deleted;

3. in Art. I(3), point o) reads:

   “o) persons during the performance of work at the workplace or while performing another similar activity for the period of time over which they perform this activity in one place without the presence of other persons than a co-worker, unless determined otherwise by the employer on the basis of adopted and implemented hygiene, technical, organisational and other measures for the prevention of risks,“.

II.

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

Rationale:

The current epidemiological situation in the occurrence of the COVID-19 disease in the
Czech Republic seems to be stabilised, as we are observing a continuous and long-term drop in all monitored parameters used for the evaluation of the development of the epidemic and determination of the level of risk of transfer of the disease in the population, this concerning the values of the 7-day incidence rate, the 7-day rolling average of new cases, relative positivity of tests, both clinically and also epidemiologically indicated and, last but not least, also the stable and significant drop in one of the key indicators showing the severity of the epidemic, this being the load on hospital care, where the auspicious current situation is showing itself in a positive light in the number of newly diagnosed cases in the 65+ age category. Due to this positive development trend, this being throughout the whole of the Czech Republic, which is reflected in particular by the current value of the 7-day incidence rate, which was markedly less than 25 cases per 100,000 people as at 13 June 2021, specifically 13.7 cases per 100,000 people, the Ministry of Health will, in relation to this fact, from now on rescind the obligation to wear a protective covering of the mouth and nose in all regions for pupils and students who are seated at their desks, and also for teachers and academic workers during tuition, and also during examinations, this being if it is possible to maintain a distance of at least 2 m from others when such a protective covering of the mouth and nose is removed. The obligation to wear a protective covering of the mouth and nose remains in force when pupils and students leave their seats. Although the current epidemiological situation in the Czech Republic does allow for the aforementioned partial relaxation of the measures relating to protection of the mouth and nose, also with respect to the outside temperatures usual for this season and the certain amount of discomfort wearing a protective covering of the mouth and nose during lessons, the situation is not yet so auspicious as to allow for a complete retraction of this obligation, and therefore this obligation remains in force in particular in the communal areas of schools, where a greater accumulation of persons could occur and, at the same time, the gathering of persons from different classes, whereas the risk of infection from possible contact with a person who is infected may still persist.

A similar regime is applicable throughout the whole of the Czech Republic also for employees at the workplace while performing their work. Removal of the protective covering of the mouth and nose is primarily intended for work where the employee sits/stands for most of the time in a fixed location and where there is no significant movement or movement of other employees. Office work is a good example of this.

It is anticipated that employees will, in accordance with the Labour Code, evaluate the possible risk of infection within the framework of their mechanisms, which the employment regulations governing risk management anticipate in the field of occupational health. Employers are given the possibility of choosing the most adequate type of measure corresponding to the individual conditions at their workplace, and if wearing of protective coverings of the mouth and nose is not the most effective protection against the ascertained risk thanks to a combination of other measures, they may take advantage of the exception in question in view of the adopted hygiene, technical, organisational and other measures which they implement at their workplaces to ensure the prevention of risks. In this case, too, the employer shall be obliged, while adopting and implementing technical, organisational and other measures to ensure the prevention of risks, to take their point of departure from the general preventive principles listed in the provisions of Section 102(5) of Act No. 262/2006 Coll., the Labour Code, as amended.
Mgr. et Mgr. Adam Vojtěch, MHA, undersigned
Minister of Health

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