



Prague, 27 August 2021

Ref. No.: MZDR 15757/2020-58/MIN/KAN
MZDRX01HC1CX

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 amending 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:

Extraordinary Measure of the Ministry of Health of 30 July 2021, ref. no MZDR 15757/2020-56/MIN/KAN, is amended effective from 31 August 2021 as follows.

1. In point 1 of the final part of the provision, the second-last sentence reads: "In exceptional cases, when it is necessary for the child, pupil or student to see the teacher's mouth during schooling, it is possible for the teacher to use a protective shield as protective respiratory equipment, under the condition that they maintain a distance of at least 1.5 meters from the children, pupils or students."
2. Point 1(b) reads:
"b) in means of public transit, including vehicular transit for third party use, the subject of which is passenger transport (in particular taxi service),".
3. Point 3(a) reads:
"a) children that have not yet commenced mandatory school attendance; this does not apply to children in preparatory classes of primary school and children in the preparatory level of special primary school,".
4. The word "children," is inserted at the start of point 3(b).
5. Point 3(c) reads:
"c) children in preparatory classes of primary school, children in the preparatory level of special primary school, pupils and students during schooling who are seated at a desk or otherwise seated,".

Rationale:

This is an extraordinary measure supplementing the extraordinary measure of the Ministry of Health of 30 July 2021, Ref. No. MZDR 15757/2020-56/MIN/KAN, which regulates mandatory respiratory protection.

The extraordinary measure of July 2021 provides for an exception regarding the wearing of a shield by a teaching staff member in exceptional situations during schooling, for example, when it is necessary for pupils to be able to see the teacher's mouth in order to ensure schooling, due to the need for clear articulation during teaching.

The group of persons (pupils and students) affected by this provision of the extraordinary measure is now extended, in order to ensure a terminologically complete list, to include children. The main reason for this is the preparation for compulsory schooling in the form of preparatory classes at primary school or preparatory levels at special primary schools, where they are not yet pupils. In these preparatory classes, it will be possible for teaching staff to use a protective face shield to ensure that pronunciation is taught correctly so that the teacher's speech is not distorted, etc. This exceptional case may also be used to provide the option of lip-reading when teaching children with hearing impairments or in other situations that necessarily require it to ensure adequate schooling. In these and similar situations, the teacher may use a shield under the same conditions, i.e. by keeping a distance of at least 1.5 meters from the child.

In addition, point 3 regulating the persons or activities, during which the obligations laid down in points 1 and 2 of the extraordinary measure of 30 July 2021 cannot be complied with, has been clarified. The cohort of persons falling within the age group of pre-school children, i.e. children who have not started mandatory school attendance, has been clarified. The modification reflects the changes made in the extraordinary measure on the limitation of schools and school facilities, where the wording of preparatory classes and levels of primary and special schools has been added. Since children attending preparatory classes and levels are in the same building with pupils in primary or special schools and share the school premises, they must have the same regime as those pupils.

Similarly, the addition of point 2 of this extraordinary measure reflects the results of application practice, and the wording has therefore been refined to remove any interpretative ambiguities, as in the previous measure. However, there is no substantive change.

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