



Prague, 15 May 2020,  
Ref. No. MZDR 20581/2020-  
1/MIN/KAN

MZDRX01AAP3J

## 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 the amendment to certain related acts, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "Act No. 258/2000 Coll."), **orders** this extraordinary measure, proceeding pursuant to Section 69(1)(b) and (i) and subsection (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 12:00 a.m. on 18 May 2020 until 12:00 a.m. on 25 May 2020, the

- I. operation of dining facilities is restricted, in that their operators it is prohibited
  - a) from allowing the presence of the public at the dining facilities, except for:
    - facilities which do not serve the public (e.g. employee dining facilities, dining facilities for healthcare service and social service providers, at prison facilities),
    - sale for consumption outside of the dining establishment (e.g. fast-food establishments with dispensing windows or take-out foods where the customer does not enter the establishment),
    - the outdoor areas of dining facilities,
  - b) sales at dining facilities located within shopping centers with a sales area exceeding 5,000 m<sup>2</sup>.
- II. the operation of accommodation facilities is restricted in that their operators are prohibited from selling accommodation services, except for entities providing accommodation at hostels, spa facilities (for the purpose of providing therapeutic spa rehabilitation care) and school accommodation facilities; this prohibition does not apply to the sale and provision of accommodation services:
  - to persons engaged in the performance of an occupation, business or other similar activity,
  - to foreigners until they leave the Czech Republic and foreigners with a work permit in the Czech Republic,
  - to persons who have been ordered into quarantine by the public health authority, and
  - to persons threatened by domestic violence.
- III. other activities are prohibited to eliminate the epidemic or risk of its occurrence, in that their operators are prohibited from

- a) operating a taxi service, with the exception of taxis delivering foodstuffs or persons authorized to be a taxi driver,
- b) public presence at indoor pools and saunas,
- c) conducting tours of the indoor areas of castles and chateaux,
- d) conducting activities which are a trade pursuant to the Trades Act, during which the integrity of the skin is breached,

IV. The following is restricted:

- a) Activities at establishments where operation is not prohibited, in that their operators must observe the following rules:
  - Actively prevent customers from coming closer than 2 metres to each other ;
  - Ensure the management of queues of waiting customers, both inside and outside the store, particularly by marking the waiting area and placing symbols indicating the minimal distance of 2 meters between customers,
  - to place disinfectants near frequently touched objects (especially handles, railings, shopping carts), so that it is available to employees and customers of the establishment and can be used for regular disinfection,
  - Ensure that workers at the establishment wear gloves when coming into contact with goods or accepting payments from customers;
  - Ensure that customers are informed of the above rules, primarily by means of information posters at the entrance and throughout the establishment, or by stating the rules through loudspeaker announcements in the establishment,
- b) The sale of unpackaged bakery goods, in that their sellers must observe the following rules:
  - It is ensured that there is no crowding of people at the bakery product collection points,
  - The point of sale is equipped with personal hygiene aids.
- c) The operation of self-service grocery stores, in that the retailers must provide disposable gloves or other similar hand protection (e.g. plastic bags) free of charge to customers at each entrance to such a shop,
- d) The operation of farmer's markets and other outdoor markets and marketplaces, in that their operators must observe the following rules:
  - not to sell foods designated exclusively for direct consumption,
  - to ensure a distance of at least 2 meters between stands, tables or other points of sale,
  - to actively ensure that customers maintain a distance of at least 2 meters from each other,
  - to place containers with disinfectant products at every point of sale,
  - to ensure that workers at the points of sale wear gloves when coming into contact with goods or accepting payments from customers,
  - to sell goods without the option of tasting or consuming foods or meals or trying on clothing at the point of sale,
- e) operation of zoos, botanical gardens, arboretums and similar facilities which can be accessed only on the basis of tickets, in that their operators must observe the following rules:
  - Visitors to zoos will only be able to purchase time-limited tickets via remote access (online) without the option of purchasing tickets on the spot,
  - The number of visitors on one day will be limited so as not to exceed 150 people per hectare of space of the facility.
  - Indoor pavilions and exhibits are closed.

- The operator ensures increased disinfection of the compound, a distance of at least 4 meters between benches, restricted contact between visitors and employees caring for the animals,
  - The operator will ensure measures to prevent the aggregation of people and control the fulfillment of minimum distances at places where the accumulation of people may be expected, e.g. children's playgrounds, areas in front of the toilets, resting areas, attractions, refreshment zones, etc.,
- f) The operation of libraries, in that their operators must observe the following rules:
- Ensure that library employees wear gloves when coming into contact with goods and other similar goods,
  - The customer must disinfect their hands at the entrance to the library, whereas the disinfectant product will be supplied by the library operator,
- g) The sale of clothing and footwear, in that their sellers must observe the following rules:
- Clothing and footwear may be tried on only after the customer has disinfected their hands,
  - When returning clothing as a part of a complaint, etc., the clothing will be kept separately from the other goods for 24 hours, and only then may be offered again to customers,
- h) The activities of hairdressing and barber shops  
, in that their operators must observe the following rules:
- When performing their work, the barber or hairdresser (hereinafter the “barber”) must use double protection of the respiratory passages, meaning a protective shield in addition to a face mask,
  - A distance of at least 2 meters must be maintained between customers; likewise, a distance of at least 2 meters must be maintained between the barber and their customers and the other barbers and their customers,
  - If a barber or customer has a body temperature of 37 °C or higher or has other symptoms of the COVID-19 disease, they will be restricted from entering the barber or hairdresser shop,
  - Disinfectant products for hand disinfection must be available at the barber or hairdresser shop,
  - Antibacterial soap, disinfectant products to disinfect the hands and disposable towels must be available in the bathrooms,
  - Before commencing and after concluding the provision of the service and when moving to another customer, the barber will always disinfect their hands using a product with virucidal effect, and if they are using gloves they must replace them and disinfect their hands between customers,
  - surface disinfection, including all used hairdressing instruments, is carried out after providing the service to each customer,
  - The floor must be disinfected at least once per day,
- i) Manicure, pedicure, massage, cosmetic and podiatrist salons, in that their operators must observe the following rules:
- The person providing the service must use double protection of the respiratory passages, meaning a protective shield in addition to a face mask,
  - A distance of at least 2 meters must be maintained between customers; likewise, a distance of at least 2 meters must be maintained between the person providing the service and their customers and the other persons providing the service and their customers,
  - If a person providing the service or a customer has a body temperature of 37 °C or higher or has other symptoms of the COVID-19 disease, they will be restricted from entering the establishment,
  - Disinfectant products for hand disinfection must be available at the establishment,
  - Antibacterial soap, disinfectant products to disinfect the hands and disposable towels must be available in the bathrooms,
  - surface disinfection, including all used instruments, is carried out after providing the service to each customer,

- The floor must be disinfected at least once per day,
  - The person providing this service uses disposable gloves (except for massages) when performing their work, which they will replace for every customer, disinfecting their hands with a product with virucidal effect in between,
  - The person providing the service will disinfect their hands before and after the massage,
  - Before providing the service, the treated area of the customer must be disinfected,
- j) The operation of museums, galleries, exhibition halls and other similar facilities, in that their operators must observe the following rules:
- No more than 100 people may be in the facility at the same time, and simultaneously there must be no more than one visitor per 10 m<sup>2</sup> of the premises accessible to visitors,
  - Visitors must maintain a distance of at least 2 m from each other, except for members of the same household,
  - Visitors must disinfect their hands at the entrance, whereas the disinfectant product will be supplied by the facility,
- k) The operation of theatres, cinemas, concert halls, circuses and similar facilities, in that their operators must observe the following rules:
- The operator will ensure at least one person to supervise the observance of the following rules and encourage viewers and other persons to observe them,
  - The following instructions are disclosed to viewers and other persons primarily through information signs, posters, on displays, screens, etc.,
  - There are at most 100 viewers in the audience,
  - In the case of seating on firmly attached seats, the viewers must be seated only in every other row and in this row the viewers will be seated so that maximally two persons can be seated next to each other, and there is minimally one empty seat between them and other persons,
  - Apart from the stands, seating in places otherwise designated for seating is restricted,
  - In the case of seating on seats which are not firmly attached, the viewers are seated so that they sit maximally in pairs and are separate from others by at least 1.5 meters,
  - There must be a distance of at least 2 meters between the ticket vendors,
  - A distance of at least 2 meters is maintained between persons in queues waiting to purchase tickets, and they are requested by means of information posters to observe this distance and to pay preferably with a payment card,
  - Hand disinfectant products are available at the entrance and in the bathrooms,
  - No foods or beverages are served or consumed,
  - Before the start of the performance, etc., the entire premises designated for viewers is disinfected, cleaning is conducted regularly even during operation (disinfecting of handles, railings, counters, etc.), daily cleaning is performed using disinfectant products with virucidal effects, in accordance with potential additional recommendations from the respective regional public health authority,
- l) The operation of outdoor areas of dining facilities, in that their operators must observe the following rules:
- Customers are seated so that there is a distance of at least 1.5 meters between them, except for customers sitting at one table,
  - The outdoor premises are organized so that seated customers in any part of the establishment are no closer than 1.5 meters from passers-by, unless the outdoor premises of the establishment are separated from the surroundings by a solid barrier that prevents the spread of droplets from the respiratory passages,
  - the operator actively prevents the gathering of people less than 1.5 meters distant from each other, including in the waiting area of the establishment,
  - Hand disinfectant must be available to customers when entering the indoor and outdoor premises of the dining services facility,
  - Customers are permitted to access the bathrooms on the indoor premises of the establishment; the operator will ensure that customers maintain the mandatory

- distance when moving about the indoor premises of the establishment,
  - Tables and chairs will be disinfected before seating every new group of customers,
  - In the case of sales through a sales window, the sales window must be disinfected at least every 2 hours,
  - The customer is not obliged to wear protective respiratory equipment while consuming food and meals including drinks at the table,
  - If an employee of the establishment has a body temperature of 37 °C or higher or has other symptoms of COVID-19 disease, they will be restricted from entering the establishment,
  - The operator proceeds so as to encourage customers to observe all the measures,
- m) The operation of shipping centers with a sales area of more than 5000 m<sup>2</sup>, in that their operators must observe the following rules:
- The operator will ensure at least one person to supervise the observance of the following rules and encourage customers and other persons to observe them,
  - The following instructions for customers are disclosed to customers and other persons primarily through information signs, posters, on displays, intercom, etc.,
  - The operator will ensure the visible posting of instructions to maintain a distance of 2 meters between persons in the publicly accessible areas of the shopping center (e.g. by means of infographics, spots on the center's radio, infographics at the entrance to stores and other facilities, infographics on the floors of public areas, etc.),
  - A systemic cleaning plan will be implemented, which defines the system of cleaning, disinfection, or decontamination of common areas based on expert recommendations from the local regional public health authority,
  - The gathering of persons will be restricted, particularly in areas where this can be expected, e.g. in the underground garages, areas in front of elevators, escalators, travellers, bathrooms, etc.,
  - Hand disinfectant will be available at every entrance to the shopping center for customers and employees,
  - Hand disinfectant will be available in all stores or other facilities, minimally at every cash register or check-out zone,
  - Payment terminals will be disinfected at regular intervals,
  - The use of rest areas (chairs, lounges, benches, etc.) will be restricted so that people do not gather in these places,
  - Visible instructions to maintain a distance of 2 meters from others on the outlet premises will be posted at the entrance to every outlet,
  - The operator will ensure the training of employees in order to ensure and verify their awareness of the measures, symptoms of the disease and prevention of contagion, including the protection of visitors and employees,
  - The operator will ensure the option of disposing of personal protective equipment (face masks, gloves, etc.) into communal waste bins for visitors and other persons at the shopping center,
  - Children's play areas and similar services will not be in operation,
- n) The operation of indoor sports grounds, in that their operators must observe the following rules:
- restrict the presence of customers so as to maintain a distance of at least 2 meters between them , except for separated organized activities or groups,
  - the changing rooms and showers must not be used,
  - protective respiratory equipment must be worn upon entrance and while exercising, with the exception or organized training within separated activities and groups,
  - ensure the disinfection of machines and other exercise equipment and gear after use by every client,
  - regularly disinfect the places where clients move about,
  - ensure hand disinfectant for staff and clients,
  - clients will mandatorily disinfect their hands before starting and after concluding exercise,
  - sell only packaged beverages and packaged foods,
  - adjust the time schedule to ensure the cleaning, ventilation and disinfection of the

premises between individual lessons.

## II.

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

### **Rationale:**

An epidemic refers to the increased incidence of a disease which is limited geographically and in time. During epidemics of an infectious disease, there is typically a steep rise in the number of cases in time, where the contagion rate achieves higher values than regular sporadic contagions. The contagion rates at which epidemic spreading is achieved (the epidemic threshold) are various and differ according to the disease. For some diseases, the epidemic threshold value is not precisely known. The main criterion to determine whether or not there is an epidemic is the mutual, epidemic connection between individual cases of the disease. The speed of the disease's spread in the population depends on the originator of the contagion, the incubation period of the disease and the transmission paths. The most serious epidemics in terms of impact and burden on the population are those caused by person-to-person contagion. The highest contagion rate in the population is reached through airborne spreading, via droplets which contain the infectious agent that are released in the patient's space when speaking, breathing, coughing and sneezing. Every infectious disease epidemic is an epidemic process composed of three basic elements: source of contagion, transmission path and a sensitive individual.

In connection to the ongoing pandemic of the COVID-19 disease and the adopted measures to avert its direct impact on the health of the Czech population, it has been shown that the most important tools to influence the ongoing epidemic and stop its uncontrolled spread is to target these individual elements of the epidemic process. The source of infection can be isolated and treated, disrupting the transmission path and protecting the vulnerable individual, for instance through quarantine measures or vaccination, whereas the latter is not yet available in connection to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the epidemic spread of an infectious disease, there is a risk that without the adoption of extraordinary measures, the infection will spread uncontrolledly through the population, possibly exhausting the healthcare system's capacity for isolation and treatment, with a fundamental impact on the population's health. The most dangerous is parallel spreading, where one infected person simultaneously infects more than one person, thus leading to the massive spread of the infection through the population.

The key measures include the possibility of the effective disruption of contagion between individuals and across the population (limit congregations, limited provision of selected services, use of protective and disinfectant products).

The main objective of the extraordinary measure is to disrupt the uninterrupted epidemic process and stop the epidemic as quickly as possible with the lowest possible loss of life and negative impacts on the economy. This can be achieved by restricting personal movement, limiting the holding of large events, limiting the operation of epidemiologically-risky activities, using adequate personal protective equipment and increased disinfection.

The extraordinary measure along with the other valid extraordinary measures is focused so as to ensure a wide range of specific measures which take into account preliminary caution in connection to the further spread of the COVID-19 disease.

The aim of the extraordinary measures is to restrict certain activities or services, whereas this restriction is important particularly in the case of the person-to-person contagion of infectious diseases, as is the case of COVID-19. In the case of a serious infection, which is spread through contaminated droplets (aerosol), it is essential to avoid concentrations of people especially in closed spaces, while stipulating other conditions regarding their staying in such

places. For this reason, it is necessary to use instruments to regulate operations in such locations.

Likewise, it is necessary to restrict the operation of public activities and services which involve the higher production of droplets and aerosol, such as pools, swimming areas, shared showers, saunas, wellness centers. During airborne contagions, it is essential to control areas with large gatherings of people, during which the transmission of the contagion is much easier. This is even more applicable in the case of epidemiologically-risky activities, such as hairdressing studios, pedicure, manicure and tanning salons and cosmetic or massage services.

Given the aforementioned principles leading to the limitation or elimination of the COVID-19 disease, it is also worthwhile to prohibit or restrict the organisation of public or private events. For during an epidemic, disrupting the path of the contagion in the population is a fundamental anti-epidemic measure. This measure is of the greatest importance in the case of contagions which are airborne or transmitted through direct contact. The restriction of movement and gatherings have been proven to be effective instruments for controlling the COVID-19 epidemic, if they are adopted as soon as possible after the outbreak.

The aim of the extraordinary measure is to conduct the steps needed to slow the spread of COVID-19, flatten the curve of persons infected with the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, which causes the COVID-19 respiratory disease in the Czech Republic, and thus prevent the overloading or collapse of the healthcare system, as happened or is happening in countries which did not adopt adequate measures in time (i.e. Wuhan in China, Italy, Spain, France, Great Britain, and certain parts of the USA, especially New York). In the given situation, flattening the curve of the number of persons infected with the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus is geared towards achieving three fundamental positive outcomes:

- Preventing the overfilling of hospital capacities. This should allow the maintenance of essential medical care for patients who are not threatened by the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, and of those patients with the COVID-19 disease who require hospitalisation. The aim is to keep the mortality rate in the range of 2-3%, as has been successfully done in the Czech Republic to date, without it rising to the global average of almost 7%, or even 10 or more percent, as is the current rate particularly in France (where the mortality rate is almost 18%), the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Italy or Great Britain. Yet, according to the State Health Institute, referring to data and analyses of the European Centre

for Disease Prevention and Control, a serious condition requiring hospitalization can appear among more than 30% of those infected, of which on a broader average almost 2.5% of those infected (but probably substantially more) are patients in critical condition. The uncontrolled spread of the epidemic could affect far higher percentages of the population within a short period of several months.

- Prevent the explosive spread of the COVID-19 disease, during which there would be an increased rate of (a) spread of more aggressive strains of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus and (b) higher concentrations of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus in the body. A higher concentration of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus in the body and the presence of its more aggressive strains leads to a wider range of health complications in those infected and higher mortality, according to current scientific findings.
- Reduce the mortality rate and frequency of serious cases of infection, because over time knowledge about the behaviour of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus and methods for treating the infection and easing its consequences will be greater. Finally, a cure or vaccine should be developed. It is generally known that even now, experimental treatments using various types of antiviral substances (e.g. remdesivir or hydroxychloroquine) are underway, and in some cases this treatment has shown certain results.

If none of the extraordinary measures had been implemented, it cannot be precluded given the foregoing information that the total number of infected persons in the Czech Republic could have reached one million, of which the disease could have required hundreds of thousands to be hospitalised (whereas a non-negligible number of those hospitalised could

require demanding intensive care based on current findings). Tens of thousands of people could have fallen victim to the disease. The Czech healthcare system (or the healthcare system of any other country for that matter) could not have handled this, not least due to the fact that at present there are about 4480 intensive care beds for adult patients in the Czech Republic according to available records (ARD and ICU combined), whereas the number of available ventilators for adults is about 2080 units, a substantial part of which are occupied by patients with other illnesses, meaning that only a part of them can be reserved for patients with coronavirus. If the number of available intensive care beds and lung ventilators had been exceeded, the number of victims would start rising dramatically; had the spreading of the contagion been explosive, even very conservative estimates give a figure of hundreds of thousands of victims in the Czech Republic, and they would not be only seniors. For comparison, it is stated that the total number of deceased in the Czech Republic (by natural death, injury or illness) is consistently around 112,000 per year.

Similar measures as those adopted in the Czech Republic were and are being gradually adopted by the governments of other countries. It must be emphasised that some countries opted for less stringent steps and measures at the beginning. Over time, however, it was found that such moderate measures do not work practically anywhere. These governments gradually intensified and continue to intensify their measures. Yet it has come to light that the impact on the population in these cases is worse than the immediate implementation of relatively strict restrictions, which took place in the Czech Republic. Not only does an initial lax approach lead to the explosive spreading of COVID-19 disease (see the cases of Sweden, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Great Britain and the USA) and the loss of lives currently in the order of thousands to tens of thousands in the individual countries, but in the end it results in equally strict or even stricter measures than those applied in the Czech Republic.

The different approach of individual governments is due mainly to the fact that there was very little information about the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, its precise characteristics and details about its spread and transmission as at the date of declaring the individual measures, or even now. The various measures of individual countries' governments are undertaken in good faith and considering all the available information. Nevertheless, in the course of the pandemic almost all western countries affected by the COVID-19 contagion gradually took the same steps as the

Czech Republic (i.e. declaration of a state of emergency, restriction of movement, limitation of retail sales, etc.), even if the procedures of the individual countries may differ in details.

The degree of uncertainty and higher risk related to the COVID-19 epidemic is due to the fact that the virus is gradually developing and mutating, which alters its characteristics. Compared to other viruses, the genetic information of coronaviruses is fairly variable, which is one of the reasons for the selection of various strains of the virus. Furthermore, findings about the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus and its characteristics are also changing dynamically.

Nevertheless, available empirical data indicates that a non-restrictive approach leads to far more adverse consequences than the adopted measures. Beyond the framework of the aforementioned countries, a typical example is as yet benevolent Sweden, which according to available data has double the number of infected patients than the Czech Republic, with more than eight times the number of fatalities (while the population of Sweden and the Czech Republic is almost identical).

The available, especially international comparisons indicate that the strategy adopted in the Czech Republic was and is correct and adequate. Essentially, only an active strategy of social distancing enforced by public authority leads to a reduction of the COVID-19 disease reproduction number and makes it possible to gain control over its spread, respectively the avoidance of it spreading explosively. Unlike the Czech Republic, a number of countries have experienced such an explosive spread, led by those countries which delayed restricting free movement and public encounters (including encounters at retail outlets).

The possible sudden easing of adopted measures could have far-reaching consequences,



and in the extreme case lead to the complete thwarting of the positive results achieved to date in fighting the COVID-19 disease in the Czech Republic.

In accordance with the plan of the gradual controlled easing of the adopted restrictive measures and current development of the epidemiological situation, in the period from 18 to 24 May 2020, the indoor premises of dining facilities were closed, and sales were prohibited at dining facilities within shopping centers with a sales area of more than 5000 m<sup>2</sup>, operation was restricted at accommodation facilities, certain taxi services were prohibited, as were indoor tours of castles and chateaux, the operation of indoor pools and saunas, activities pursuant to the Trades Act during which the integrity of the skin is breached, and certain hygienic epidemiological rules were imposed at facilities and special rules for the retail sale of foods, farmer's and other markets, zoos, botanical gardens, arbors and similar facilities, libraries, sales of clothing and footwear, barber and hairdresser shops, manicure, pedicure, massage, cosmetic and podiatrist salons, museums, galleries, exhibition halls and similar facilities, theatres, cinemas, concert halls, circuses and similar facilities, the outdoor areas of dining facilities, shopping centers with a sales area of over 5000 m<sup>2</sup> and outdoor sports grounds.

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

*Signed electronically*

**Pg. 9 of 9**

Electronic signature - 15 May  
2020 Signature author's  
certificate:

Name: Mgr. et Mgr. Adam Vojtěch, MHA  
Issued by: PostSignum Qualified C...  
Valid through: 25 December 2020 14:14:59-  
000 +01:0