



Prague dated 9 April 2020

Ref. No.: MZDR 15757/2020-5/MIN/KAN



MZDRX019VSSD

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 (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., 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.

All social service providers providing services in facilities for handicapped persons, senior homes and homes with a special regime, and social service providers providing alleviating services in inpatient form (hereinafter referred to as “social service providers”) are ordered, with effect from 10 April 2020, to ensure the regular examination of all employees for the presence of specific antibodies against COVID-19 disease. Social services providers will ensure the examination of their employees every 14 days by means of a rapid test performed by an employee who is a healthcare worker, or by the healthcare service provider with which it has concluded an agreement on provision of corporate healthcare services.

II.

All the social service providers specified in paragraph I are ordered, effective from 10 April 2020, to keep records of the examinations conducted pursuant to paragraph I, containing the name and surname of the employee, the date and time the test was performed and the result of the test.

III.

All the social service providers specified in paragraph I are ordered, effective from 10 April 2020, to immediately report the fact that their employee tested positive for COVID-19 to the locally competent public health protection authority, who will order the employee into quarantine.

IV.

All employees of the social service providers specified in paragraph I are ordered, effective from 10 April 2020, to undergo the examinations pursuant to paragraph I.

V.

All regions and the City of Prague are ordered, effective from 10 April 2020, to provide all the social service providers specified in paragraph I who provide social services in their territories with a sufficient number of rapid tests for the purpose of the examinations pursuant to paragraph I.

VI.

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

Rationale:

This Extraordinary Measure has been issued in connection with the adverse development of the epidemiological situation in terms of the occurrence of the COVID-19 disease, caused by the novel coronavirus designated as SARS-CoV-2 in the Czech Republic.

Based on experience from around the world and experience from the course of the COVID-19 epidemic to date in the Czech Republic, the most high-risk groups of citizens are seniors over the age of 65 years, persons treated for hypertension, diabetes mellitus, cancerous diseases and those with compromised immunity. Most clients of the specified facilities belong to the aforementioned high-risk groups. In the case of institutionalized persons, there is the additional increased risk of easy transmission not only between the clients of these facilities, but in particular the risk of contagion from the staff to the clients of the facilities. When they are not at work, the staff return to their normal environment, where they may be infected and contract the COVID-19 disease. There is a subsequent risk of transmission of the disease to the facility and putting clients at risk. The available rapid tests are capable of detecting the presence of specific antibodies in the acute (IgM) and late (IgG) phase against SARS-CoV-2 in the capillary blood. The test is simple, fast and intuitive. The result is available no later than within 15 minutes from commencing the test. No special equipment is required to perform the test, except for the necessary personal protective equipment, a sterile needle and disinfectant.

The aim of the testing is to promptly detect infected and asymptomatic persons among the staff and their timely quarantine/isolation in order to minimize the risk of contagion from the staff to the clients of the facilities, and to protect the clients of the aforementioned facilities from the COVID-19 disease.

Testing will be conducted by a healthcare worker at the given facility (e.g. a physician or general nurse) or by the provider or corporate healthcare services with which the employer has concluded an agreement. The supplied rapid tests will be used for testing according to the instructions for use. Testing will be performed once every 14 days for every facility employee. The further procedure and interpretation of the results is governed by the algorithm for testing COVID-19 using rapid tests. Positive results will be reported on the date of performance to the locally competent public health protection authority, which will ensure further procedures. The facility will keep its own records of performed examinations, containing minimally the employee's name and surname, date and time of the test and the test result. Employees with positive test results will be ordered into quarantine immediately.

The immediate implementation of the Measure is required due to the daily rise in the numbers of infected persons in the Czech Republic and the rising threat to high-risk groups, and consequently this extraordinary measure shall take effect immediately.

Mgr. et Mgr. Adam Vojtěch, MHA

Minister for Health

Signed electronically

Pg. 3 of 3

Electronic signature - 9 April 2020

Certificate of signature author:

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