



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Palackého náměstí 375/4, 128 01 Praha 2

Prague, March 30, 2020

Reference No: MZDR 13894/2020-1/MIN/KAN

MZDRX019PJ77

EXTRAORDINARY MEASURE

The Ministry of Health as an administrative authority competent pursuant to Section 80 (1) letter g) of the Act No. 258/2000 Coll., on Protection of Public Health, and on change of certain related acts, as amended (the "Act No. 258/2000 Coll."), adopts within procedure pursuant to Section 69 (1) letter i) and (2) of the Act No. 258/2000 Coll., in order to protect the population and to prevent danger of outbreak and spread of the COVID-19 disease caused by the new coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, this extraordinary measure:

I.

With the effect as of March 31, 2020, all persons shall not move and stay in any places other than their place of residence without means of protection of respiratory tract (nose, mouth), such as respirator, mask, drape, bandanna, scarf or other means of avoiding the spread of droplet infection. This shall not apply to the following exceptions:

- children under 2 years of age, and
- drivers of motor vehicles, if they are alone in a closed vehicle

II.

This extraordinary measure is effective on the day of its issue.

Rationale:

The extraordinary measure is adopted in relation to the adverse development of the epidemiologic situation of the COVID-19 disease caused by the new coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 in the Czech Republic.

In the view of the current outbreak of COVID-19 disease in territory of the Czech Republic, as well as in the territory of most countries in the world, it is necessary to prevent further outbreak of COVID-19 disease declared by the World Health Organisation as a pandemic on March 11, 2020.

Since March 1, 2020, when COVID-19 disease was proven at the very first time to a patient in the territory of the Czech Republic, there has been an increase in the number of cases at 2,657 (as of March 28, 2020). The daily increase in the number of patients with newly proven COVID-19 disease in recent days exceeds 200 (March 25 - 291, March 26 - 259, March 27 - 373, March 28 - 262).

This measure is one of the important preconditions for preventing the outbreak of COVID-19 disease caused by the new SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus in the Czech Republic. The coronavirus is spread from man to man by a close contact. It is a so-called droplet-based infection that is transmitted through the air. Most often the mucous membranes of the upper and lower respiratory tracts and the conjunctiva are infected. The incubation period is approximately between 2 and 14 days. The most common ways where viruses enter the human body are mucous membranes, i.e. mouth, nose and also eyes. These places are like an open gate for viruses.

The aim of this measure is to use the barrier to spread the droplets from the carrier of the disease in order to avoid the spread of COVID-19 disease in the community to the maximum possible extent. For this reason, movement and stay in any places except for place of residence without means of protection of respiratory tract (nose, mouth), such as respirator, mask, drape, bandanna, scarf or other means of avoiding the spread of droplet infection is forbidden.

The extraordinary measure is a continuation of existing emergency measure adopted by the Government, providing for exceptions for very small children in which case wearing of masks or similar barriers may make breathing difficult, as well as exception for drivers who are themselves alone in a closed vehicle. In such a case there is no risk of spreading droplets to another person.

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

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