



Prague, 14th February 2021

Ref. no.: MZDR 20599/2020-56/MIN/KAN

PROTECTIVE MEASURE

The Ministry of Health, as the administrative authority with the appropriate jurisdiction under Section 80(1)(h) of Act No. 258/2000 Coll., on the Protection of Public Health and on Amendments to Certain Related Acts, as amended (hereinafter referred to as “Act No. 258/2000 Coll.”) **decrees**, under the procedure defined in Section 68(1) of Act No. 258/2000 Coll., the following Protective Measure aiming to provide protection from introduction of the disease COVID-19, caused by the new coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, into the country:

I.

With effect as of 15th February 2021 at 00:00 hours,

I. it has been decreed

1. that all persons who entered the territory of the Czech Republic after 15th February 2021, 00:00 hours,
 - a) and who are exhibiting any signs of a starting infectious disease (including but not limited to an increased temperature, cough, shortness of breath, digestive problems, loss of the sense of smell, overall weakness and possibly other symptoms) shall immediately report this fact over the telephone or by another means of remote access to their registering provider of medical services in the field of general medical care or general medical care for children and adolescents or, if they do not have a registering provider, to any provider of general medical care or general medical care for children and adolescents,
 - b) shall submit themselves, when crossing the state border, to a medical examination in order to be checked for symptoms of an infectious disease, and if symptoms of an infectious disease are identified, they shall provide medical staff with the cooperation necessary for taking of a biological sample for the purpose of testing for the presence of COVID-19;
2. that all persons who were staying for more than 12 hours during the last 14 days in the territories of those countries, which are on the list of countries with a medium risk of transmission of COVID-19 under point III.1 hereof,
 - a) shall report this fact immediately before entering the territory of the Czech Republic by filling in the electronic Passenger Locator Form as mentioned under point III.4, via remote access, to a regional Public Health Office with jurisdiction over the person’s normal place of residence or registered place of residence;
 - b) shall have a written confirmation from an accredited laboratory of a negative result of an antigen or RT-PCR test before entering the territory of the Czech Republic; the antigen test must be carried out no more than 24 hours and RT-PCR test no more than 72 hours before the beginning of the trip;

- c) shall present the certificate of the filling-in of the electronic Passenger Locator Form (the statement) and the written confirmation mentioned in point b) on request during the border control or residence check.
3. that all persons who were staying for more than 12 hours during the last 14 days in the territories of those countries, which are on the list of countries with a high risk of transmission of COVID-19 under point III.1 hereof,
- a) shall report this fact immediately before entering the territory of the Czech Republic by filling in the electronic Passenger Locator Form as mentioned under point III.4, via remote access, to a regional Public Health Office with jurisdiction over the person's normal place of residence or registered place of residence;
 - b) shall have a written confirmation from an accredited laboratory of a negative result of an antigen or RT-PCR test before entering the territory of the Czech Republic; the antigen test must be carried out no more than 24 hours and RT-PCR test no more than 72 hours before the beginning of the trip;
 - c) shall present the certificate of the filling-in of the electronic Passenger Locator Form (the statement) and the written confirmation mentioned in point b) on request during the border control or residence check;
 - d) within 5 days of entering the territory of the Czech Republic, they shall take an RT-PCR test for the presence of SARS-CoV-2 at their expense and they shall promptly present the result electronically to the regional Public Health Office with jurisdiction over the person's place of residence stated in the Passenger Locator Form;
4. that all persons who were staying for more than 12 hours during the last 14 days in the territories of those countries, which are on the list of countries with a very high risk of transmission of COVID-19 under point III.1 hereof,
- a) shall report this fact immediately before entering the territory of the Czech Republic by filling in the electronic Passenger Locator Form as mentioned under point III.4, via remote access, to a regional Public Health Office with jurisdiction over the person's normal place of residence or registered place of residence;
 - b) shall have a written confirmation from an accredited laboratory of a negative result of an antigen or RT-PCR test before entering the territory of the Czech Republic; the test must be carried out no more than 72 hours before the beginning of the trip;
 - c) shall present the certificate of the filling-in of the electronic Passenger Locator Form (the statement) and the written confirmation mentioned in point b) on request during the border control or residence check;
 - d) no sooner than 5 days after entering the territory of the Czech Republic, they shall take an RT-PCR test for the presence of SARS-CoV-2 at their expense and they shall promptly present the result electronically to the regional Public Health Office with jurisdiction over the person's place of residence stated in the Passenger Locator Form, unless the public health protection authority decides in very exceptional cases on other quarantine measures in individual cases in accordance with Act No. 258/2000 Coll. and on the duration of such measures.
5. Points I.2 through I.4 do not apply to:

- a) international transport workers, provided that the reason for their entry into the country is supported by an adequate document;
- b) the citizens of the European Union, including the citizens of the Czech Republic, and foreign nationals with long-term or permanent residence permit for residence in the European Union who transit across the Czech Republic within 12 hours or who travel to or from the Czech Republic for a period not exceeding 12 hours; foreign nationals are only allowed to travel to the Czech Republic for reasons stated in point II.2;
- c) accredited members of diplomatic missions in the Czech Republic including private servants, holders of service passports issued by the Czech Republic and holders of diplomatic passports who are travelling to or from the Czech Republic for the purpose of diplomatic service and officials of international organisations registered with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, provided that their stay in the country or outside the country does not exceed 72 hours;
- d) persons younger than 5 years;
- e) professional athletes and members of the national representation of the Czech Republic or other countries, including persons essential for sporting events permitted by the Ministry of Health's exception, who are allowed individual training activities or participation in a mass event for which binding hygienic and anti-epidemic conditions have been established; only point I.4(d) shall not apply to these persons and they are obliged to undergo an RT-PCR test for the presence of SARS-CoV-2 at their own expense after entering the territory of the Czech Republic from a country with a high or very high risk of transmission and to have a negative result of such test;
- f) cross-border workers, pupils and students who cross the state border with the Czech Republic to or from a neighbouring country for the purpose of work or studies regularly at least once a week on an authorised basis and trips to or from a neighbouring country for the purpose of exercising the right to take care of or be in contact with a minor child;
- g) police officers carrying out escorting activities or providing security on airplanes;
- h) the citizens of the Czech Republic, the citizens of the European Union and the holders of a valid long-term visa, a card on a long-term, temporary or permanent residence permit for residence in the territory of the Czech Republic issued by the Czech Republic who will present a written medical certificate in the English language, issued by a physician working in the Czech Republic or another member state of the European Union, that they do not have any clinical signs of COVID-19, that they have provably recovered from COVID-19, that they have completed isolation to the required extent due to a positive result of an RT-PCR test according to the valid extraordinary measures ordered by the Ministry of Health or a measure of another member state of the European Union and that not more than 90 days passed from the first positive result of an RT-PCR test; the certificate must contain the stamp, the doctor's identification details and the telephone number; a possible sample of a confirmation is published at the website of the Ministry of Health;
- i) critical infrastructure service personnel whose performance is in the interest of the Czech Republic; only point I.3(d) and point I.4(d) shall not apply to such persons;

- j) persons in possession of a diplomatic note confirming proven and completed isolation due to COVID-19 disease in accordance with point III.6;
 - k) cross-border cooperation within the intervention of the integrated rescue system services;
6. that all regional Public Health Offices decide on the necessary quarantine measures for the persons who report their entry into the territory of the Czech Republic under points I.3 and I.4, and if the test proves the presence of SARS-CoV-2, they should decide on isolation pursuant to Section 64(a) in conjunction with Section 2(6) and (7) of Act No. 258/2000 Coll., on Public Health Protection and on amendments to certain related Acts, as amended, or they should proceed according to the applicable provisions of the Public Health Protection Act for those persons who reported their entry into the territory of the Czech Republic under points I.3 and I.4 and on whom no other quarantine measures were imposed and who failed to present the result of an RT-PCR test under point I.3(d) or I.4(d) within 10 days of entering the territory of the Czech Republic;
7. that all citizens of third countries, which are not on the list of countries with a low risk of transmission of COVID-19 under point III.1, and third country nationals who have temporary or permanent residence in such third countries are prohibited from entering the territory of the Czech Republic; this does not apply to:
- a) foreign nationals with a long-term residence permit or permanent residence permit for residence in countries with a low risk of transmission of COVID-19 under point III.1;
 - b) holders of a valid long-term visa, a long-term, temporary or permanent residence permit card for residence in the territory of the Czech Republic, issued by the Czech Republic;
 - c) foreign nationals who were issued a short-term visa by the Czech Republic after 11 May 2020, provided that they have the written confirmation referred to in point I.3(b) or I.4(b);
 - d) foreign nationals with permitted long-term or permanent residence in the European Union;
 - e) family members within the meaning of Section 15(a) para. 1 or Section 15(a) para. 2(b) of Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended, citizens of the Czech Republic or citizens of the European Union with their place of residence in the territory of the Czech Republic;
 - f) foreign nationals whose entry into the country is in the interest of the Czech Republic, provided that the reason for their entry into the country is supported by an adequate document and provided that they have the written confirmation referred to in point I.3(b) or I.4(b) or a diplomatic note referred to in point III.6.;
 - g) international transport workers, provided that the reason for their entry into the country is supported by an adequate document;
 - h) accredited members of diplomatic missions in the Czech Republic including private servants, holders of diplomatic passports who are travelling to the Czech Republic for the purpose of diplomatic service provided that their stay in the country does not exceed 72 hours and officials of international organisations registered with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

- i) in special urgent situations (the need to provide planned medical services, performance of an obligation imposed by a court, a trip based on a summons from a government authority, execution of a judgment, dealings with public authorities, necessary care for close family members who are unable to take care of themselves on their own, exercise of the right to take care of a minor child or be in contact with a minor child, other humanitarian situations), provided that the reason for the entry into the country is supported by an adequate document and provided that they have the written confirmation referred to in point I.3(b) or I.4(b);
 - j) for a foreign national who has a demonstrable permanent partnership with a citizen of the Czech Republic or with the EU citizen with temporary residence certificate for a stay of over 90 days or with permanent residence permit, who has accepted the obligations set out in point I.5, based especially on living in the same household with him or her and has been admitted to the territory of the Czech Republic pursuant to this point based on a confirmation issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and provided that they have the written confirmation referred to in point I.3(b) or I.4(b) or a diplomatic note referred to in point III.6,;
8. that all entities that receive foreign nationals in the country for the purpose of economic activities or educational activities who entered the territory of the Czech Republic after 1st July 2020 ensure the following for such foreign nationals:
- a) accommodation throughout their stay in the Czech Republic, including a place where a quarantine measure will be implemented, if it is imposed by the public health protection authority;
 - b) medical care or a registering provider of medical services for the entire duration of their stay in the Czech Republic;
 - c) payment for the medical care, unless it is ensured otherwise; this does not apply if the foreign national has a long-term residence permit;
 - d) return to the foreign national's country of origin if the purpose of their stay in the Czech Republic ceases to exist, unless their return is ensured otherwise; this does not apply if the foreign national has a long-term residence permit;
9. that all third country nationals shall enclose with their application for a residence permit for the purpose of economic activities or educational activities, filed with the relevant embassy of the Czech Republic, a document referred to in Section 31(3)(b) of Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended, which will contain the obligations of the entity referred to in point I.8 and shall enclose such a document with their application no later than before a visa is marked in a travel document;
10. not to receive applications for visas and temporary and permanent residence permits at the embassies of the Czech Republic in third countries, with the exception of applications for:
- a) short-term seasonal work visas or short-term employment visas, provided that the foreign national will be employed in food production, health care or welfare services; or short-term work visas if they are submitted on Ukraine by Ukrainian citizens, unless the maximum of such visas set by the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs after negotiations with the Ministry of Health is exceeded,

- b) short-term visas for scientific, key and high-skilled workers, provided that the conditions defined in the Key and Scientific Staff Programme and the High-skilled Employee Programme have been met, and for critical infrastructure maintenance workers,
- c) short-term visas based on the grounds defined in points I.7 (e) through (j),
- d) long-term seasonal work visas,
- e) special work visas,
- f) temporary residence permits, if the applications are filed by foreign nationals included in the government Programmes for Gaining Economic or Other Significant Benefits for the Czech Republic;
- g) permanent residence permits, if the applications are filed by foreign nationals included in the government programme referred to in Government Resolution No. 1014/2014,
- h) Blue Card, long-term residence permits for the purpose of scientific research and applications for a residence permit for a stay over 90 days for spouses and minor children of scientists or applications for a Blue Card,
- i) long-term visas and long-term residence permits for the purpose of studies,
- j) long-term or permanent residence permits for the purpose of reunification of family in the country and applications for long-term visas for family purposes, if this concerns a spouse and minor children of a foreign national with long-term or permanent residence permits for residence in the territory of the Czech Republic,
- k) a long-term visa for the purpose of collecting a residence permit in the territory of the Czech Republic,
- l) a long-term visa for cultural purposes and sports-related purposes;
- m) residence permit, if the entry of these foreigners is in the interest of the Czech Republic, if the interest of the Czech Republic is supported by an appropriate document,

these exceptions only apply to applications for visas and residence permits filed at the embassies of the Czech Republic in those countries where the measures implemented due to the COVID-19 pandemic allow for receiving such applications; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will publish the list of such countries in such a way that it will be possible to access the list remotely;

11. to discontinue all proceedings regarding applications for residence permits for a stay over 90 days filed at the embassies of the Czech Republic, with the exception of proceedings regarding applications filed at the embassies of the Czech Republic in those countries whose measures implemented due to the COVID-19 pandemic allow for carrying out acts within the proceedings; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will publish the list of such countries in such a way that it will be possible to access the list remotely;
12. to mark a visa in a travel document at the embassies of the Czech Republic only in case of applications which may be accepted as referred to in point I.10, with the exception of point I.10 letter (i) where there are only visa related to applications for residence permits for the purpose of studying in an accredited study programme at a university and within the "Accelerated procedure for granting residence permits for foreign nationals – foreign

students from third countries” programme marked; this also applies to applications received a day before this Protective Measure has come into effect;

13. that all persons referred to in points I.2 through I.4, including the persons referred to in points I.5 (a), (b), (c), (e), (h), (i) and (j), travelling from the countries referred to in points I.2 through I.4, shall be required to wear respirators without an exhalation valve rated as the FFP2, KN95, N95, P2, DS grade as the minimum or at least with a disposable medical face mask in the situations specified in point II.1 or point II.2 for a period of 10 days after entering the territory of the Czech Republic;
14. employers and end-users of workers who are subject to the obligations referred to in point I.2 shall prevent the entry of these persons to all establishments and workplaces of the employer, unless these persons simultaneously submit to the employer or end user for whom they perform work the written confirmation referred to in point I.2(b); the same obligation is applied to educational institutions in relation to students and teachers;
15. employers and end-users of worker who are subject to the obligations defined in points I.3(d) and I.4(d) shall prevent the entry of these persons to all establishments and workplaces of the employer, unless these persons simultaneously submit to the employer or end user for whom they perform work the negative result of an RT-PCR test for the presence of SARS CoV-2 from the territory of the Czech Republic after at least 5 days pass since their arrival in the Czech Republic, if these are persons with obligations referred to in point I.4(d); the same obligation applies to educational institutions in relation to children or their legal representative, students and teachers; a kindergarten or similar institution must not allow the presence of children under the age of 5, unless they are children referred to in point I.5(f), who have returned from a country with a very high risk of transmission for a period of 5 days from the entry into the territory of the Czech Republic; this obligation does not apply after a person completed their isolation imposed according to a decision on isolation or after a person presents a certificate of completion of another quarantine measure to the public health protection authority;
16. the persons to whom points I.14 and I.15 are applicable shall notify their employers and their educational institution of trips exceeding 12 hours to countries with a medium, high and very high risk of transmission of COVID-19;
17. to foreigners detained pursuant to Section 27 of Act No. 273/2008 Coll., On the Police of the Czech Republic, or pursuant to Act No. 326/1999 Coll., On the stay of foreigners in the territory of the Czech Republic and on the amendment of certain acts, as amended taking a biological sample to detect the presence of COVID-19 and providing healthcare professionals with the necessary cooperation in carrying out this collection at a sampling centre, a health care facility or a detention facility for foreigners;
18. that international carriers are to prevent those whom they transport from countries or their parts that are not on the list of countries or their parts with a low risk of transmission of COVID-19 under point III.1 and who are required to fill in the electronic Passenger Locator Form as referred to in points I.2 through I.4, from using their services if they do not submit a document confirming filling-in of the electronic Passenger Locator Form (notification), and to further prevent a journey if prior to the start of the journey they do not submit a written confirmation referred to in points I.2(b) – if they travel from a country with a medium risk of transmission, I.3(b) – if they travel from a country with high risk of transmission, I.4(b) – if they travel from a country with a very high risk of transmission, or a diplomatic note referred to in point III.6;

19. for drivers in international freight transport who shall transit through the territory of the Czech Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany or through the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany, to submit a written confirmation from an accredited laboratory of a negative result of an antigen or RT-PCR test, performed no more than 36 hours before entering the territory of the Czech Republic.

II. prohibits

1. all persons referred to in points I.3, I.4 and I.5(d) with the exception of persons referred to in point I.5 (e) and (i), from freely moving around the territory of the entire Czech Republic during their stay in the territory of the Czech Republic until they present the result of an RT-PCR test for the presence of SARS CoV-2 carried out in the Czech Republic or until the termination of the quarantine measure, with the exception of the following:
 - a) trips absolutely necessary to procure basic necessities of life, to take care of children or to take care of animals; the use of necessary financial and postal services; refuelling vehicles,
 - b) trips to medical facilities and welfare facilities,
 - c) trips taken to take care of urgent official matters,
 - d) trips back to one's place of residence,
 - e) funerals;
2. the stay of foreign nationals in the territory of the Czech Republic who are not allowed to enter the territory of the Czech Republic according to this Protective Measure by the Ministry of Health and who are not traveling across the territory of the Czech Republic for reasons of travel to and from work or other similar activities, essential travel to family or close relatives, provision of child or animal care, essential travel to health and social services facilities including the necessary escort of relatives and close persons, travel for urgent official or emergency matters including the provision of the necessary escorts of relatives and close persons, attendance of funerals, travel for education including internships and examinations, participation in an authorized assembly, travel to one's place of residence;

III. provides

1. that the list of the countries or their parts with a low, medium, high and very high risk of transmission of COVID-19 is defined based on criteria listed in the Council Recommendations, which are:
 - a) the "14-day cumulative COVID-19 case notification rate", that is, the total number of newly notified COVID-19 cases per 100 000 population in the last 14 days at region level;
 - b) the "test positivity rate", that is, the percentage of positive tests among all tests for COVID-19 infection carried out during the last week; and
 - c) the "testing rate", that is, the number of tests for COVID-19 infection per 100 000 population carried out during the last week; this rate must be at least 300 per 100 000 population; with the following being applicable:

- i) the list of countries with a low risk of transmission of COVID-19 always contains those member states of the European Union, which report a value of no more than 25 for the criterion specified in point a), unless they simultaneously report the value of 4 % or higher for the criterion specified in point b), as well as selected third countries referred to in Annex I to Council Recommendation (EU) 2020/912, as amended;
- ii) the list of countries with a medium risk of transmission of COVID-19 contains those member states of the European Union, which report a value lower than 50 for the criterion specified in point a) while simultaneously reporting a value of 4 % and higher for the criterion specified in point b), or which report values between 25 and 150 for the criterion specified in point a) while simultaneously reporting a value of 4 % and lower for the criterion specified in point b);
- iii) the list of countries with a high risk of transmission of COVID-19 contains those member states of the European Union, which report values between 50 and 150 for the criterion specified in point a) while simultaneously reporting a value of 4 % or higher for the criterion specified in point b), or which report values between 150 and 500 for the criterion specified in point a);
- iv) the list of countries with a very high risk of transmission of COVID-19 contains those member states of the European Union, which report a value of 500 or higher for the criterion specified in point a); these countries also include those third countries, which are not on the list of countries with a low risk of transmission of COVID-19; these countries also include those member states of the European Union, in which community spreading of new variants of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus predominates;

the list of the countries is defined by a notice published on the website of the Ministry of Health;

- 2. that a third country national is any foreign national other than a citizen of the European Union and other than a foreign national within the meaning of Section 1(3) of Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended,
- 3. that in the event of a change of the entity with which the foreign national will perform an economic activity or educational activity, carried out in accordance with the legal regulations of the Czech Republic, the obligations specified in point I.8 shall be borne by the last entity,
- 4. that the electronic Passenger Locator Form is available at www.prijezdovyformular.cz; the processed personal data beyond the scope of Section 79(1) of Act No. 258/2000 Coll. include number of travel document, citizenship, email address, and telephone number,
- 5. that for the purpose of this Protective Measure the following countries are regarded as member states of the European Union in addition to the actual member states of the European Union: Swiss Confederation, the Kingdom of Norway, the Republic of Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Principality of Andorra, the Principality of Monaco, the Republic of San Marino and the Vatican City State,
- 6. that citizens of the Czech Republic and their family members according to point I.7(b) or the partners referred to in point I.7(j) if the persons travel together, and furthermore persons according to point I.5(i) that are subject to the obligation under point I. 3(b) or

I.4(b) may for the purposes of point I.18 before entry into the territory of the Czech Republic possess instead of a written confirmation under point I. 3(b) or I.4(b) a diplomatic note issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic certifying the impossibility of obtaining the necessary test in the country of departure or certifying proven isolation due to COVID-19 disease in the country of departure; persons who have been issued a diplomatic note due to the impossibility of obtaining the necessary test are obliged to undergo an RT-PCR test for the presence of SARS-CoV-2 immediately upon entering the territory of the Czech Republic and are obliged to fulfil other obligations relevant to persons who have arrived from countries with a very high risk of transmission, unless this Protective Measure provides otherwise;

7. that, for the purposes of this Protective Measure, the term "written confirmation" means both paper (original or plain copy) and electronic, provided that it indicates the first name, last name and date of birth of the person in question; written confirmation in electronic form cannot be submitted in the form of an SMS message.

II.

The Protective Measure of the Ministry of Health with the ref. no. MZDR 20599/2020-53/MIN/KAN of 3rd February 2021 will be terminated with effect as of 15th February 2021, 00:00 hours.

III.

This Protective Measure has come into effect on the date of its issuance.

doc. MUDr. Jan Blatný, Ph.D.
Minister of Health