



Prague, 17 March 2022

Ref. no.: MZDR 705/2022-13/MIN/KAN

## PROTECTIVE MEASURE

The Ministry of Health, as the authorised administrative body under Section 80(1)(h) of Act No. 258/2000 Coll., on the Protection of Public Health and on changes to certain related Acts, as amended (hereinafter referred to as “Act No. 258/2000 Coll.”) **has decreed** the following protective measure through a procedure defined in Section 68(1) of Act No. 258/2000 Coll. to provide protection from the introduction of COVID-19 caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2:

### I.

With effect as of 18 March 2022, 00:00 it has been

#### I. ordered

##### A. Arrivals from non-EU countries

1. citizens of the Czech Republic and other persons referred to in clause I.3 who travel to the territory of the Czech Republic from countries outside the European Union, in which they have stayed for more than 12 hours in the last 14 days
  - a) are required to complete Public Health Passenger Locator Form before the start of the transportation;
  - b) are required to have the following before the start of the transportation:
    - i) the result of an RT-PCR test or RAT test, or
    - ii) national certificate on vaccination that has been carried out or a national certificate of completed vaccination, or
    - iii) medical certificate on suffering COVID-19 disease in the past;
  - c) when requested to do so during a border or residence check, are required to present a document confirming that they filled out the Public Health Passenger Locator Form, the document referred to in letter b), or a written document that an exemption applies to the given person according to this Protective Measure;
  - d) if the person does not possess a national certificate on vaccination that has been carried out or a national certificate of completed vaccination, or a medical certificate on suffering COVID-19 disease in the past, they are required to submit themselves to an RT-PCR test not earlier than on the 5<sup>th</sup> day but no later than on the 7<sup>th</sup> day after their entry into the territory of the Czech Republic, if the person still remains in the territory of the Czech Republic, unless the public health protection authority decides differently in a completely exceptional case;

the definition of Public Health Passenger Locator Form, RT-PCR test or RAT test, national certificate on vaccination that has been carried out, national certificate of completed vaccination and medical certificate on suffering COVID-19 disease in the past are referred to in clause III;



2. other persons who have stayed for more than 12 hours in the last 14 days in a country outside the European Union,
  - a) are required to complete Public Health Passenger Locator Form before the start of the transportation;
  - b) are required to have the following before the start of the transportation:
    - i) the result of an RT-PCR test or RAT test, or
    - ii) national certificate on vaccination that has been carried out or a national certificate of completed vaccination, or
    - iii) medical certificate on suffering COVID-19 disease in the past;
  - c) when requested to do so during a border or residence check, are required to present a document confirming that they filled out the Public Health Passenger Locator Form, the document referred to in letter b), or a written document that an exemption applies to the given person according to this Protective Measure;
  - d) if the person does not possess a national certificate on vaccination that has been carried out or a national certificate of completed vaccination, or a medical certificate on suffering COVID-19 disease in the past, they are required to submit themselves to an RT-PCR test not earlier than on the 5<sup>th</sup> day but no later than on the 7<sup>th</sup> day after their entry into the territory of the Czech Republic, if the person still remains in the territory of the Czech Republic, unless the public health protection authority decides otherwise in a completely exceptional case;

the definition of Public Health Passenger Locator Form, RT-PCR test or RAT test, national certificate on vaccination that has been carried out, national certificate of completed vaccination and medical certificate on suffering COVID-19 disease in the past are referred to in clause III;
3. that other persons are
  - a) EU citizens;
  - b) family members of Czech citizens or family members of EU citizens with a residence permit in the territory of the EU;
  - c) foreigners with an issued long-term or permanent residence permits in the territory of the EU;
4. that persons referred to in clause I.5 are exempt from the obligations stated in clause I.1 and I.2; exemptions from partial obligations are defined in clauses I.6 through I.10;

## **B. Exemptions from Anti-epidemic Measures**

### **B. a) Exemptions from all anti-epidemic measures defined in this Protective Measure**

5. that the obligations arising from the anti-epidemic measures implemented under this Protective Measure and relating to arrivals in to the territory of the Czech Republic do not apply to:
  - a) international transport employees, if the reason for entry is supported by adequate documentary evidence;
  - b) accredited members of diplomatic missions in the Czech Republic, including personal servants, holders of service passports issued by the Czech Republic and holders of diplomatic passports travel to or from the Czech Republic for purposes of official business and officials of international organisations registered with the Ministry of



Foreign Affairs travelling to or from the Czech Republic for purposes of official business, provided that their stay in the territory or outside the territory does not exceed 72 hours;

- c) minor persons with an intellectual disability, with an autism spectrum disorder and a cognitive disorder or with a severe alteration in mental status, whose mental capabilities or current mental status does not allow for complying with this Protective Measure and who have had a medical certificate issued in English for this purpose by a physician practicing in the Czech Republic or in another Member State of the European Union; the certificate must contain a seal and the physician's identification information and telephone number;
- d) officials of the Penitentiary Service or police officers escorting individuals or serving as security officers accompanying airplanes;
- e) children less than 12 years of age;

#### **B. b) Exemptions from certain anti-epidemic measures under this Protective Measure**

6. that in case of Czech citizens and other persons stated in clause I.3 who are arriving by individual means of transport, the obligations before arrival into the territory of the Czech Republic as stated in this Protective Measure in parts A. do not apply;

7. that the obligation to have the result of an RT-PCR test before a travel does not apply to a holder of a diplomatic note issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the impossibility to procure a test for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus outside the territory of the Czech Republic;

#### **C. Arrival of Covid-positive Persons**

8. that the persons with COVID-19, except for the persons specified in clause I.9, are prohibited from entering the territory of the Czech Republic;

9. the citizens of the Czech Republic and their co-travelling family members with an issued permit for temporary residence in the territory of the Czech Republic, the citizens of the European Union with an issued certificate of temporary residence in the territory of the Czech Republic and the foreign nationals with a permit for permanent residence in the territory of the Czech Republic, issued by the Czech Republic, in whom a test proved the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus less than 14 days before their planned entry into the territory of the Czech Republic,

- a) to transport themselves to and subsequently within the territory of the Czech Republic by individual means of transport, if possible;
- b) if they are travelling by means of public transport, to notify the carrier of possible persisting COVID-19 before starting the travel;
- c) to notify the regional Public Health Office with territorial jurisdiction immediately after entering the territory of the Czech Republic regardless of the means of transport;

#### **D. Other Obligations of Persons and Government Authorities Relating to the Prevention of the Introduction or Spreading of COVID-19**



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10. the embassies of the Czech Republic in third countries to accept only visa applications and applications for temporary and permanent residence permits, if the applications fall into the following categories:
  - a) all the applications filed in third countries, which are on the list of countries or territories with a low risk of infection;
  - b) all the applications for short-term visas of those persons who, under this Protective Measure, are holders of a national certificate on vaccination that has been carried out or a national certificate of completed vaccination or those persons who have had COVID-19, and the period of validity of the certificate is longer than the period of validity of the short-term visa applied for; an embassy may determine preferential office hours for submission of such applications;
  - c) applications for long-term or permanent residence permits; an embassy may determine preferential office hours for submission of such applications;
  - d) applications for long-term visas;
  - e) applications for short-term visas
    - i. for the purpose of seasonal employment or for the purpose of employment, if the foreign national is going to be employed in food production, health care or social services, or short-term visas for the purpose of employment, if the applications are filed by citizens of Ukraine in Ukraine, unless they exceed the maximum number of such applications determined by the Ministry of foreign Affairs in consultation with the Ministry of Health;
    - ii. for scientists, key and highly skilled workers, provided that the conditions defined in the Key and Scientific Staff Programme and the Highly Skilled Employee Programme are met, and for workers servicing the critical infrastructure;
    - iii. for the reason specified in clauses II.1(d) through (I);
11. the embassies of the Czech Republic in third countries and the Ministry of the Interior to stay all proceedings on applications for visa and residence permits filed at the embassies of the Czech Republic in third countries for those states whose measures implemented due to the COVID-19 pandemic do not allow to carry out operations;
12. the embassies of the Czech Republic in third countries to enter a visa into a travel document based only on those applications, which can be accepted under clause I.10 or for which the proceedings were not stayed according to clause I.11;
13. third country nationals, who intend to enter the territory of the Czech Republic for the purpose of employment, to present a current certificate from the employer that the employer will employ the foreign national no later than before a long-term visa or a visa for the purpose of collection of a residence permit is entered into their travel document, if more than 90 days elapsed since the filing of an application for a long-term visa or a long-term residence permit;
14. foreign nationals detained under Section 27 of Act No. 273/2008 Coll., on the Police of the Czech Republic, or under Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic and on changes to certain Acts, as amended, to submit themselves to the collection of a biological sample for the purpose of detecting the presence of COVID-19 and to provide healthcare professionals with the necessary collaboration in the process of taking this sample at the official sample-taking site of the provider of medical services or in the facility for detention of foreigners;



15. carriers providing international transport of persons, which transport persons to the Czech Republic, to not allow transport of those travellers who are not authorised to enter the territory of the Czech Republic under this Protective Measure or who have failed to comply with the obligations specified in clauses I.1 and I.2, unless they are exempted from such obligations according to this Protective Measure;

## **II. prohibits**

1. all third country nationals from entering the territory of the Czech Republic; this does not apply:
- a) to foreign nationals who provide evidence that they stayed in a Member State of the European Union or in a country with a low risk of infection for at least 14 days immediately before entering the territory of the Czech Republic and did not stay in the territories of countries with other than a low risk of infection for more than 12 hours during the last 14 days;
  - b) to holders of valid long-term visas, long-term, temporary or permanent residence permits for the territory of the European Union;
  - c) to foreign nationals who have been issued short-term visas by the Czech Republic after 11 May 2020 or by a Member State of the European Union on behalf of the Czech Republic under a bilateral agreement after 1 August 2021;
  - d) to family members within the meaning of Section 15a of Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic and on changes to certain Acts, as amended, of citizens of the Czech Republic or citizens of the European Union;
  - e) if in exceptional situations the entry and presence of a foreigner in the territory of the Czech Republic is absolutely necessary and at the same time the reason for entry is proved by an appropriate document issued by the head of the central state administration authority, which contains a proper specific justification of the necessity of the presence of a foreigner in the territory of the Czech Republic and fulfilment of the intended purpose cannot be ensured in any other way; a mere general indication of the need for presence does not fulfil the condition of a proper specific justification; the document cannot be issued for accompanying family members of the requesting foreigner;
  - f) to workers in the field of international transport, provided that the reason for their entry is supported by an adequate document;
  - g) to accredited members of diplomatic missions in the Czech Republic, including personal servants, holders of diplomatic passports travelling to the Czech Republic for the purposes of official business and to officials of international organisations registered with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
  - h) in urgent extraordinary situations (such as the provision of planned medical services, performance of an obligation imposed by a court, a travel taken in response to a summons from a government authority, execution of a court decision, an official meeting, an entrance exam for studies, a national equivalency test, necessary care of close family members who are unable to take care of themselves on their own, exercise of custody of a minor child or exercise of the right to be in contact with a minor child, other humanitarian situations), provided that the reason for the entry is supported by an adequate document;



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- i) a foreign national who is provably in a permanent relationship as a partner with a citizen of the Czech Republic or a citizen of the European Union with temporary residence exceeding 90 days or permanent residence in the Czech Republic, based particularly on sharing the same household, and who has been issued with a certificate from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to allow him/her to enter the territory of the Czech Republic under this clause;
- j) to vaccinated persons with a national certificate on vaccination that has been carried out, to vaccinated persons with a national certificate of completed vaccination and to persons who have had COVID-19, and the period of stay will not be longer than the period of validity of the certificate;
- k) in case of a minor child travelling with his or her legal guardian or accompanying another person who holds a national vaccination certificate or a national certificate of completed vaccination, or who is a person who has undergone COVID-19, and the validity of the certificate is longer than the intended length of stay; this provision cannot be used for school trips and similar group arrivals;
- l) if the entry is in the interest of the Czech Republic's foreign policy, which is decided only by the Minister of Foreign Affairs; provided that they meet the conditions for entering as defined in this Protective Measure and are otherwise authorised to enter the territory of the Czech Republic;

### III. determines

1. that the list of countries or territories with a low incidence of COVID-19 is made based on the criteria specified in Council Recommendation (EU) 2020/912 of 30 June 2020 on the temporary restriction on non-essential travel into the EU and the possible lifting of such restriction, as amended, and that it does not contain any other states or territories than those stated in the Annex I of this Council Recommendation; the list of countries or territories is published in the form of Protective Measure;
2. that complying with the obligation to present a Public Health Passenger Locator Form means presenting the form in such a format, which allows for definite identification of the holder and checking the filled out information; an electronic Public Health Passenger Locator Form is available on the website [www.prijezdovyformular.cz](http://www.prijezdovyformular.cz); the personal data processed beyond the framework of Section 79(1) of Act No. 258/2000 Coll. are the number of the travel document, citizenship, electronic mail address and telephone number; by filling out and sending an Public Health Passenger Locator Form, the regional Public Health Office with jurisdiction over the person's domicile or the person's reported place of residence is notified, via remote access, of the person's entry into the territory of the Czech Republic; information related to the person's stay abroad (visited countries) and the means of arrival to the Czech Republic, as well as information on the place of residence in the Czech Republic; the length of data retention is 3 months from the submitting of the Public Health Passenger Locator Form; access to the database of Public Health Passenger Locator Forms is possible according to Section 79(1) of Act on the Protection of Public Health by employees of the Regional Public Health Offices, Section of Public Health Protection and Support of the Ministry of Health and The Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic, for the purpose of activities focused on preventing or minimizing the import of COVID-19 disease into the Czech Republic, or preventing or



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minimizing further spread, in particular, to detect cases for sequencing samples, contact tracing, sanctioning for breach of obligations, in particular under this protective measure and the collection and analysis of anonymised statistical data;

3. that a test for detection of the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus/a test means:
  - a) for antigen testing, a written certificate of the negative result of a rapid antigen test (RAT), which is not older than 24 hours from the date of the antigen test and it is a test included in the common and updated list of RAT tests established by the Council Recommendation of 21 January 2021 on a common framework for the use and validation of rapid antigen tests and the mutual recognition of COVID-19 test results in the EU;
  - b) for RT-PCR testing, a written certificate of the negative result of an RT-PCR test, which is not older than 72 hours from the date of the RT-PCR test, issued by a person authorised to carry out this test in the country where it was carried out; if it is a test carried out in a territory, which is subject to the Regulation of the European Union on the Digital COVID Certificate<sup>1</sup>, or in the territory of a third country, for which an implementing act was adopted pursuant to the Regulation of the European Union on the EU Digital COVID Certificate<sup>1</sup>, the result will only be proved by a certificate of the test issued in accordance with the Regulation of the European Union on the Digital Covid Certificate<sup>2</sup>;
4. that a vaccinated person with a national certificate on vaccination that has been carried out means a person who presents a valid national certificate on vaccination against COVID-19 that has been carried out, issued under the Regulation of the European Union on the EU Digital COVID Certificate<sup>3</sup>, provided that at least 14 days elapsed from completion of the vaccination scheme, and in the case of a person who has reached the age of 18 and at the same time a maximum of 270 days elapsed from completion of vaccination scheme or has been vaccinated with a booster dose, and who does not show any symptoms of COVID-19;
5. that a vaccinated person with a national certificate on completed vaccination means a person who presents a valid national certificate on completed vaccination against COVID-19 as referred to in clauses III.6 or III.7, provided that at least 14 days elapsed from completion of the vaccination scheme, and in the case of a person who has reached the age of 18 and at the same time a maximum of 270 days elapsed from completion of

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/953 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2021 on a framework for the issuance, verification and acceptance of interoperable COVID-19 vaccination, test and recovery certificates (EU Digital COVID Certificate) to facilitate free movement during the COVID-19 pandemic

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/953 of the European Parliament and of the Council

Regulation (EU) 2021/954 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2021 on a framework for the issuance, verification and acceptance of interoperable COVID-19 vaccination, test and recovery certificates (EU Digital COVID Certificate) with regard to third-country nationals legally staying or residing in the territories of Member States during the COVID-19 pandemic

<sup>3</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/953 of the European Parliament and of the Council

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- vaccination scheme or has been vaccinated with a booster dose, and who does not show any symptoms of COVID-19; provided that the person was vaccinated using:
- a) a medicinal product containing a vaccine against COVID-19, which was granted registration under Regulation (EC) No 726/2004; or
  - b) a medicinal product, the production of which is in accordance with the patent of the medicinal product referred to in item a), provided that this medicinal product was also approved by the World Health Organisation for emergency use; the list of products referred to in items a) and b) is published on the website of the Ministry of Health;
6. that a national certificate of completed vaccination means a written confirmation issued at least in the English language by an authorised person operating in a third country, which is not the country issuing the certificate referred to in clause III.7 is in the list of recognised national certificates on the website of the Ministry of Health; the written confirmation must contain information on the vaccinated person, the type of vaccine administered, the date of administration of the vaccine, identification of the entity, which issued the confirmation, and
- a) it must be possible to verify this information directly from the written confirmation via a remote access;
  - b) it is a third country in which vaccination with a medicinal product is carried out in accordance with clause III.5, the vaccination rate is higher than in the Czech Republic, the country provides reliable and verifiable data on the pandemic and cooperates within international organizations combating the pandemics;
7. that a national certificate of completed vaccination is also deemed to be a certificate on completed vaccination issued to a vaccinated person according to clause III.5 by an authorised person operating in a third country, for which the implementing Act was adopted according to the Regulation of the European Union on the EU Digital COVID Certificate<sup>4</sup> and the template which is in the same time published in the list of national certificates on the website of the Ministry of Health;
8. that a person who has had COVID-19 is deemed to be that person who presents a certificate that he/she has had COVID-19, issued according to the Regulation of the European Union on the Digital COVID Certificate<sup>5</sup> or by an authorised entity operating in a third country, for which the implementing Act was adopted under the Regulation of the European Union on the EU Digital COVID Certificate<sup>6</sup>, and at least 11 days but no more than 180 days elapsed from the first positive result of an RT-PCR test for detection of the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus; if the certificate has been issued by a third country, it must be in the same time published in the list of national certificates on the website of the Ministry of Health, which is identical to the list according to clause III.7;

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<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/953 of the European Parliament and of the Council

<sup>5</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/953 of the European Parliament and of the Council  
Regulation (EU) 2021/954 of the European Parliament and of the Council

<sup>6</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/953 of the European Parliament and of the Council





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9. that a person who has had COVID-19 is also deemed to be a holder of a diplomatic note, issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; such holders can be citizens of the Czech Republic and their co-travelling family members with an issued temporary residence permit for the territory of the Czech Republic, citizens of the European Union with an issued certificate of temporary residence in the territory of the Czech Republic or foreign nationals with a permanent residence permit for the territory of the Czech Republic issued by the Czech Republic, certifying a documented completed isolation due to COVID-19 in the country of departure before their entry into the territory of the Czech Republic; a diplomatic note is not usually issued earlier than 14 days after the first positive result of an RT-PCR test for detection of the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and it cannot be used for purposes of the applications referred to in clause I.10 and for purposes of an entry referred to in clause II.1;
10. that necessary travel means restriction of free movement to the absolutely necessary minimum, with the exception of:
  - a) travels absolutely necessary to procure the basic necessities of life and to ensure care of children;
  - b) travels absolutely necessary to procure items to take care of animals, to use the necessary financial and postal services, to refuel;
  - c) urgent or otherwise necessary travels to a provider of healthcare services;
  - d) travels to social services facility;
  - e) travels to take care of urgent official matters;
  - f) funerals;
11. that a citizen of a third country is a foreign national, except for a citizen of the European Union and 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 changes to certain Acts, as amended;
12. that for the purposes of this Protective Measure, Member States of the European Union are deemed to include, in addition to the Member States of the European, the Principality of Andorra, the Republic of Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Principality of Monaco, the Kingdom of Norway, the Republic of San Marino, the Swiss Confederation and the Vatican City State; all other countries are deemed to be third countries;
13. that for the purposes of this Protective Measure, the term “written confirmation” means both a hardcopy format (an original or a simple copy) and an electronic format, as long as it contains the name, surname and date of birth or the number of the travel document of a specific addressee; a written confirmation in an electronic format cannot be presented in the form of an SMS message;
14. that the holders of diplomatic notes on the impossibility to take a test for detection of the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in the country of departure can be citizens of the Czech Republic and their co-travelling family members with an issued temporary residence permit for the territory of the Czech Republic, citizens of the European Union with an issued certificate of temporary residence in the territory of the Czech Republic, foreign nationals with a permanent residence permit for the territory of the Czech Republic issued by the Czech Republic and the workers servicing critical infrastructure, whose performance of their activities is in the interest of the Czech Republic;



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15. that a means of public transport is such a means of transport, in which persons who are not members of the same household are being transported at the given moment;
16. that if an embassy of the Czech Republic is accredited for more countries than the current inclusion of the given country in the list of countries or territories with a low, medium, high and very high risk of incidence of COVID-19 is decisive for the acceptance and processing of visa applications and residence permit applications from each of the countries.
17. that individual transport is a journey by such means of transport in which only persons who are members of the same household are transported at a given moment
18. that the rate in the Czech Republic is published here:  
<https://www.mzcr.cz/tiskove-centrum/datove-tiskove-zpravy-ke-covid-19/>

**II.**

With effect as of 18 March 2022 at 00:00, the Protective Measure of the Ministry of Health dated 14 February 2022, ref. no.: MZDR 705/2022-7/MIN/KAN, have been repealed.

**III.**

This Protective Measure has become effective on the date on which it has been issued.

Minister of Health