



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
Palackého náměstí 375/4, 128 01 Prague 2

Prague, 10 February 2020

Ref. No. MZDR 5503/2020-2/PRO

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PROTECTIVE MEASURE

The Ministry of Health, as the competent administrative authority pursuant to Section 80(1)(h) of Act No. 258/2000, on public health protection and amending certain related acts, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "Act No. 258/2000"), **orders** the following protective measure pursuant to Section 68(1) and (3) of Act No. 258/2000, to protect against the introduction of the new 2019-nCoV coronavirus from abroad to the Czech Republic:

I.

With effect from the date of announcement of this measure until the revocation hereof, **the diplomatic offices of the Czech Republic in the People's Republic of China and Hong Kong** are ordered not to accept visa applications and residency permits, not to conduct proceedings relating to them and not to issue decisions about such applications, including granted visas, with the exception of applications for short-term Schengen visas for the family members of citizens of the Czech Republic. The Ministry of the Interior is ordered to suspend decision-making on ongoing proceedings for the granting of residency permits submitted at diplomatic offices in China and Hong Kong.

II.

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

Justification:

This measure has been issued in connection with the adverse development of the epidemiological situation related to the occurrence of disease caused by the new coronavirus designated as 2019-nCoV in the People's Republic of China. The aim of this measure is to create conditions to combat the spread of this disease.

The new coronavirus designated as 2019-nCoV is currently causing an exponentially growing epidemic in the People's Republic of China, with the potential to double the number of infected people every 5 to 7 days, with a mortality rate of about 2.5%. Even the strict repressive anti-epidemic measures taken in the People's Republic of China have not yet led to effective control, and the contagion has spread throughout the People's Republic of China and been introduced to the European continent. Interpersonal contagion has been confirmed here. For the aforementioned reasons, it is desirable to limit travel by passengers from the People's Republic of China and Hong Kong until the epidemic is

brought under effective control.

The restriction or suspension of travel from the People's Republic of China and Hong Kong involves the suspension of accepting visa and residency permit applications from applicants in the affected territories, suspending ongoing proceedings and not issuing decisions in these proceedings, including the issuing of visas, until further notice, respectively until the epidemic is brought under effective control.

Should the diplomatic offices of the Czech Republic continue to issue visas to applicants from the People's Republic of China and Hong Kong, these applicants could attempt to use their granted visas to travel to the European continent, which could lead to the further uncontrolled spread of 2019-nCoV coronavirus.

This measure is an important prerequisite to prevent the introduction and spread of the 2019-nCoV coronavirus in the Czech Republic.

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

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