Prague dated 30 April 2020
Ref. No.: MZDR 18636/2020-1/MIN/KAN

MZDRX01A4XLN

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.

Effective from 4 May 2020, all healthcare service providers who provide home care and all care service providers (hereinafter "service providers") are ordered to ensure, at latest by 17 May 2020, the examination of all of their employees for the presence of specific antibodies against COVID-19 disease using a Rapid test performed by an employee who is a healthcare worker, or by a healthcare service provider with which it has concluded an agreement on the provision of corporate healthcare services.

II.

Effective from 4 May 2020, all the service providers specified in paragraph I are ordered to send the locally competent public health protection authority, at latest by 20 May 2020, a list of the employees examined 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.

Effective from 4 May 2020, all the service providers specified in paragraph I are ordered to immediately report to the locally competent public health protection authority if any of their employees tested positive for COVID-19.

IV.

If the service provider's employee has a positive result of the Rapid test for COVID-19, the locally competent public health protection authority is ordered to impose quarantine measures and the obligation to take a PCR test on this employee.

V.

All employees of the service providers specified in paragraph I are ordered, effective from 4 May 2020, to undergo the examinations pursuant to paragraphs I and IV.

VI.

All the regional hygienic stations, including the Hygienic Station of the City of Prague, are ordered effective from 4 May 2020 to provide all of the service providers specified in paragraph I, who provide home care and nursing services in the territories of their regions, with Rapid tests in the quantity requested by the service providers for the purpose of testing pursuant to paragraph I.

VII.

This extraordinary measure takes effect on 4 May 2020.

Rationale:

This Extraordinary Measure has been issued in connection with the 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.

The purpose of this extraordinary measure is to limit the occurrence and further spread of the COVID-19 disease among the most threatened population groups. Home care services and nursing services are ensured for patients with chronic illnesses, the long-term ill, post-injury patients, patients in the terminal stages of diseases who can be in their social environment. Most of these patients meet the criteria of persons at risk of the more serious progression of the COVID-19 disease. The staff providing these services may be a source of contagion for the treated clients. When they are not at work, the staff members return to their normal environment, where they may be infected and contract the COVID-19 disease. There is a subsequent risk of the outbreak of the disease among clients. 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 at latest within 15 minutes from commencing the test. No special equipment is

needed to perform to the test, except for the necessary personal protective equipment (hereinafter "PPE"), a sterile syringe/lancet and disinfectant.

The aim of the testing is to promptly detect infected and asymptomatic persons among the staff and their timely isolation, to minimise the risk of COVID-19 contagion from the staff to clients.

Testing will be conducted by a healthcare worker at the given facility, 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. 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 coordinate further procedures. The facility will also provide information about all the performed tests, containing minimally the employee's name and surname, date and time of testing, and test result. Employees with a positive test result will be ordered into quarantine immediately. Such employees will undergo a PCR test involving a swab from the upper respiratory passages as soon as possible. The place of performing the PCR test will be determined by the locally competent public health protection authority, which will also ensure the indication of the test using an electronic application form. Until the result of the PCR test is disclosed, the given employee will not perform work with patients. In the case of a positive PCR test, the public health protection authority will order the isolation of the employee and manage the further procedure. In the case of a negative test result, the employee will continue working.

This extraordinary measure takes effect on 4 May 2020.

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

Signed electronically