



MINISTERSTVO ZDRAVOTNICTVÍ  
ČESKÉ REPUBLIKY

In Prague on Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014  
Ref.: 60681/2014-NH-30.0-23.12.2014

### PROTECTIVE MEASURES

The Ministry of Health as the competent administrative authority according to § 80 para. 1, h) of Act no. 258/2000 Coll., on protecting public health and amending certain related acts, as amended (hereinafter "Act no. 258/2000 Coll."), prescribes, in accordance with § 68 para. 1 and 3 of Act no. 258/2000 Sb. protection against introducing the highly contagious infectious disease Ebola hemorrhagic fever from abroad, through Václav Havel Airport Prague, using the following protective measures:

#### I.

1. People arriving in the Czech Republic via Václav Havel Airport Prague from the Republic of Guinea, the Republic of Liberia, and the Republic of Sierra Leone, or other countries who during the previous 42 days before arriving in the Czech Republic have stayed for any time on the territories of the Republic of Guinea, the Republic of Liberia and the Republic of Sierra Leone, must **proceed to a designated space immediately after landing at Václav Havel Airport in Prague**, where an employee of the public health authorities, an authorized employee of a health institute or the National Institute of Health, carries out epidemiological investigations to prevent Ebola being introduced into the Czech Republic.

2. Prague Airport, Inc., based in K letišti 1019/6, Prague 6, must allocate a space between Terminal 1 and Terminal 2 for the service of an employee of the public health authorities, an authorized employee of a health institute and the National Institute of Health, including the possibility of isolating a person showing signs of the disease.

#### II.

1. The existing protective measures ordered by the Ministry of Health under Ref. 52128/2014-NH-30.0-14.10.2014, dated Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014 are hereby cancelled as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, from 8:00 am.

2. The protective measures stated here become effective on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, from 08:00 am.

**Justification:**

Ebola hemorrhagic fever is a highly contagious infectious disease with an incubation period of 21 days. The outbreak of this highly contagious infectious disease has occurred mainly in the West African countries of Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. Spreading infectious human diseases is considered a crime in accordance with § 152 and 153 of the Criminal Code in conjunction with Appendix no. 1 of Government Regulation no. 453/2009 Coll., which, for the purposes of the Criminal Code, defines what are considered infectious human diseases, contagious animal diseases, infectious plant diseases and crop infestants. This disease is also classified as a serious disease by the Act on the Residence of Foreigners (Act no. 326/1999 Coll.) and § 2. a) and d) of Decree no. 274/2004 Coll., specifying the list of diseases that could endanger public health, and the list of diseases that could seriously threaten public order.

According to § 2 para. 6. a) of Act no. 258/2000 Coll., a healthy person who has resided in the infected area or has been in contact with the infectious disease during the incubation period, is considered suspected of being infected. The main place through which Ebola could be introduced into the Czech Republic from abroad is the international airport, designed and equipped to handle both domestic and internal flights, as well as flights during which external borders are crossed. According to directives issued to protect against highly contagious infectious diseases being introduced Václav Havel Airport Prague is a primary transit point. Therefore, a space was set up for employees of the public health authorities and employees of health institutes and the National Institute of Health, established by medical facilities to provide services to protect public health. The aim of this service is to conduct epidemiological investigations to prevent Ebola haemorrhagic fever spreading into the Czech Republic.

Passengers travelling from abroad through Václav Havel Airport in Prague who in the previous 42 days from the date of arriving in the Czech Republic resided for any period of time on the territories of the Republic of Guinea, the Republic of Liberia or the Republic of Sierra Leone, must attend an epidemiological investigation in the designated space set up at the airport immediately after landing, where an employee of the public health authorities, an authorized employee of a health institute or the National Institute of Health provides this service. The reason for this measure is to prevent Ebola infection being introduced and spread in the Czech Republic and conducting an epidemiological investigation of persons who resided in the infected area or could have come into contact with this infectious disease, as well as adopting any necessary anti-epidemic measures for these individuals, especially monitoring their health and possible order of medical supervision (see § 2 para. 6 of the Act on the Protection of Public Health) are essential conditions.

**A person who resided on the territories of the West African countries listed above who fails to comply with the ordered protective measures may endanger public health,**

**because if he/she came into contact with the infection (which may only become apparent during their stay in the Czech Republic), and cannot be found quickly through data obtained during the epidemiological investigation or the appropriate anti-epidemic measures cannot be taken, the disease may further spread across the Czech Republic and therefore cause an epidemic outbreak.**

At the same time, Prague Airport, Inc. must allocate premises for employees of the public health authorities and employees of the health institute and the National Institute of Health, including the possibility of isolation.

The existing protective measures, issued under ref. 52128/2014-NH-30.0-14.10.2014, of Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014, will be cancelled. The duty of persons travelling from abroad to set international airports to fill-in an arrivals card onboard the aircraft and hand it in on arrival at the airport is also cancelled. The Ministry of Health opted to cancel this because of the results of the investigation of the World Health Organization, the ECDC (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control) and DG Sanco (European Commission's Directorate General for Health and Consumers) in infected countries of West Africa in November of this year, which evaluated the screening process from these countries as effective.

Protective measures Ref. 60681/2014-NH-30.0-3.12.2014, which have replaced the existing protective measures and will take effect from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, 8:00 am, given the continuing outbreaks of Ebola hemorrhagic fever, maintain the obligation for passengers who during the previous 42 days from the date of arriving in the Czech Republic resided for any period of time on the territories of the Republic of Guinea, the Republic of Liberia, and the Republic of Sierra Leone, to undergo an epidemiological investigation in a designated area immediately on arriving at Václav Havel Airport in Prague, where an employee of the public health authorities, an authorized employee of a health institute or the National Institute of Health, carries out this service.

According to § 68 para. 1, the last sentence of Act no. 258/2000 Coll., administrative rules are not applicable to issuing protective measures against the introduction of infectious diseases from abroad. Protective measures and decisions about terminating them pursuant to § 68 para. 3 of the cited Act are published on the official board of the Ministry of Health and regional health authorities and the relevant border crossing, i.e. Václav Havel Airport in Prague.

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*Published on:*

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