Dear colleagues and students,

on the basis of the extraordinary measure of the Ministry of Health (hereinafter as the ‘Ministry’) issued on 14 June 2021, ref. no. MZDR 16640/2021-4/MIN/KAN, and the extraordinary measure of the Ministry, ref. no. MZDR 14601/2021-19/MIN/KAN, changes in the manner of providing evidence of absence of infection by students and applicants for studies have occurred with effect from 15 June 2021. The option of recognising tests performed by employers or schools has been added. Changes in measures that were announced earlier are underlined.

Providing evidence of absence of infection for the purpose of attending collective instruction or collective examinations

Students provide evidence of compliance with the requirement of testing or that an exemption applies by providing one of the following:

- a confirmation of a negative result of a POC antigen test to detect the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus or the RT-PCR test to detect the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus issued by a provider of healthcare services that is no older than 168 hours and that was performed by the provider of healthcare services pursuant to the current extraordinary measure of the Ministry concerning tests in the context of the testing system at USB, or by another provider of healthcare services,
- a confirmation issued by a constituent part of USB on the basis of a performed self-testing (in the context of the testing system at USB, see above),
- a confirmation of the fact that the person in question suffered a case of the Covid-19 disease that was confirmed in a laboratory and that the period of isolation pursuant to the current extraordinary measure of the Ministry has passed and no more than 180 days have passed since the first positive POC antigen test to detect the presence of the antigen of the SARS-CoV-2 virus or the RT-PCR test to detect the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus,
- a confirmation from an employer, a school, or a school facility, or an affidavit concerning the fact that the student underwent a test to detect the presence of the antigen of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that is intended for self-testing or approved by the Ministry for use by a non-professional and that was provided by the employer, school, or school facility in the context of mandatory testing. The result of the test must be negative and no older than 72 hours,
- a certificate of vaccination against the Covid-19 disease if:
  i) at least 22 days, but no more than 90 days if the second dose was not administered, have passed since the administration of the first dose of the vaccination substance in the case of the two-dose system according to the Summary of Product Characteristics about the medicinal product (hereinafter as the “Summary”),
  ii) at least 22 days, but no more than 9 months if the second dose was administered, have passed since the administration of the first dose of the vaccination substance in the case of the two-dose system according to the Summary,
  iii) at least 14 days have passed since the administration of the first dose of the vaccination substance in the case of the single-dose system according to the Summary.

Providing evidence of absence of infection by applicants for studies in the context of admission exams

Applicants provide evidence of compliance with the requirement of testing or that an exemption applies by providing one of the following:

- a confirmation of a negative result of the POC antigen test to detect the presence of the antigen of the SARS-CoV-2 virus or the RT-PCR test to detect the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that was performed in the 7 days prior to the day of the admission exam in question,
• a confirmation of the fact that the person in question suffered a case of the Covid-19 disease that was confirmed in a laboratory and that the period of isolation pursuant to the current extraordinary measure of the Ministry has passed and no more than 180 days have passed since the first positive POC antigen test to detect the presence of the antigen of the SARS-CoV-2 virus or the RT-PCR test to detect the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

• a confirmation from an employer, a school, or a school facility, or an affidavit concerning the fact that the student underwent a test to detect the presence of the antigen of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that is intended for self-testing or approved by the Ministry for use by a non-professional and that was provided by the employer, school, or school facility in the context of mandatory testing. The result of the test must be negative and no older than 72 hours.

• a certificate of vaccination against the Covid-19 disease if:
  i) at least 22 days, but no more than 90 days if the second dose was not administered, have passed since the administration of the first dose of the vaccination substance in the case of the two-dose system according to the Summary of Product Characteristics about the medicinal product (hereinafter as the “Summary”)
  ii) at least 22 days, but no more than 9 months if the second dose was administered, have passed since the administration of the first dose of the vaccination substance in the case of the two-dose system according to the Summary,
  iii) at least 14 days, but no more than 9 months have passed since the administration of the first dose of the vaccination substance in the case of the single-dose system according to the Summary.

Partial changes have been made in the following areas (these changes were published on the USB website and, therefore, the following summary should only serve as a reminder).

Respiratory tract protection
There is a new exemption stating that examiners and examinees are no longer required to wear respirators during examinations as long as all persons keep a distance of at least 2m.

Graduations
Attending academic ceremonies is permitted under the following conditions.

• The total number of persons in attendance must not exceed 2'000 persons if the event is taking place on outdoor premises or 1’000 persons if the event is taking place in indoor premises.
• All attendees must remain seated in such a manner that at least one unoccupied seat is left between individual participants except for persons from the same household, and, if possible, they are to be seated in every other row.
• The distance between the seated attendees and the space designated for performers must be at least 2m.
• The total number of persons in attendance must not exceed 50 % of the total capacity of available seats.
• All attendees except for children under the age of 6 shall provide evidence of absence of infection.

Lifelong learning programmes, educational events, and exams for the public

In-person lifelong learning courses, other educational events and exams for the public may take place as long as the total number of attendees allowed to take part does not exceed 50 % of the total seating capacity and, concurrently, the total number of those in attendance (including performers, organisers, examiners, etc.) does not exceed 2’000 persons if the event is taking place on outdoor premises or 1’000 persons if the event is taking place in indoor premises. Additionally, the following conditions must be met.

• Participation is permitted only to persons displaying no clinical symptoms of the COVID-19 disease.
• All persons in attendance shall use appropriate respiratory tract protective equipment (nose, mouth) for the whole duration of the event. Such protective equipment is understood as a respirator or similar means of protection in compliance with corresponding standards (FFP2, KN 95). Educational activities (examinations), the nature of which does not allow for the use of protective equipment (particularly physical education, singing, playing wind instruments) may constitute an exemption. In cases in which it is necessary that the student sees the mouth of the educator during instruction, it is possible for the educator to use a face shield as protective equipment for respiratory tract protection under the condition that the educator maintains a distance of at least 2m from participants.

• All attendees must remain seated, unless it is practical instruction or practical examination, in such a manner that at least one unoccupied seat is left between individual participants except for persons from the same household. If possible, they are to be seated in every other row and the distance between the seated attendees and the space designated for performers must be at least 2m. If the event is taking place outdoors, we recommend that attendees are seated in every other row.

• All attendees except for children under the age of 6 shall provide evidence of absence of infection.

Employee and student testing

Testing has been advised until the end of June, i.e. the obligation will be revoked as of 1 July 2021.

The abovementioned changes will remain in effect until further notice. Should the circumstances change, along with the binding regulations that the USB must follow, we shall inform you again.

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