

GOVERNMENT MEASURES

MZ: 0.06% people infected 2 weeks after second dose

Thursday, July 15 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Following the second dose of COVID-19 vaccination, 4,030 infections have so far been detected in 3.87 million people. At 14 days after the second dose, 0.06% of those vaccinated were infected. This is based on data from the Ministry of Health (MZ) and the Institute of Health Information and Statistics. The need for hospitalization for a mild course of the disease was reported in about 0.01% 14 days after the second dose of vaccines. As of July 15, 2021, there are 25 persons hospitalized with COVID-19, of whom 8 are in the ICU. ■

A. Vojtěch: Tests will be paid if unable to vaccinate

Thursday, July 15 | ČIANEWS

The state will continue to cover coronavirus tests only for people who cannot be vaccinated. Health Minister Adam Vojtěch (ANO) said that vaccination is the preferred solution to the situation. He added that vaccination is widely available and free of charge. ■

SZÚ records 2026 reinfections with COVID-19

Thursday, July 15 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The State Health Institute currently registers 2,026 confirmed recurrent symptomatic COVID-19 diseases. This is from the number of more than 1,654,000 cases of diseases reported in the period from March 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 to the Infectious Disease Information System (ISIN). Reinfection of the disease was identified in 1225 women and 801 men. The interval between the first and second episodes of the disease ranged from 61 to 401 days. ■

EC to support TV stations, COVID slowed DVB-T2 transition

Thursday, July 15 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The European Commission (EC) has approved an aid scheme for terrestrial TV network operators. The reason for this was the additional costs for operators caused by the interruption of the transition of digital terrestrial television broadcasting in the Czech Republic to the DVB-T2 standard during the state of emergency in 2020. The aid will not exceed EUR 1.8m per beneficiary and will be granted until December 31, 2021, the Office for the Protection of Competition said. ■

PLK and KHK work together to vaccinate employees

Thursday, July 15 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Plzeň Region (PLK) and the Regional Chamber of Commerce in Plzeň Region (KHK) cooperate on vaccination of employees in companies with higher employee numbers. The region announced that employees who are interested in vaccination will be able to use a mobile team that vaccinates directly on the premises of the companies. Thus, people will not have to travel to vaccination centres for vaccination. A total of 400 companies were contacted. ■

K. Havlíček: OKD will not stop production before late 2022

Thursday, July 15 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

OKD's last two mines will not cease production before the end of 2022, Czech Industry and Trade Minister Karel Havlíček (ANO) said during a visit to OKD on July 15, 2021. During the visit, the company's management presented the company's financial results for H1 2021. The company produced over 1.4 million tonnes of coal. Despite the pandemic, operating revenues reached CZK 3.9bn and sales exceeded CZK 3.4bn. EBITDA adjusted for extraordinary effects was CZK 610m. OKD expects to produce 1.9 million tonnes of coal by the end of 2021 and to report year-end revenues in excess of CZK 7bn. It has already secured sales by the end of the year and is preparing contracts for 2022. ■

Pirates+STAN want cabinet to boost vaccination incentives

Thursday, July 15 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Pirates and STAN MPs appealed to the government with six key points of the anti-pandemic plan. Pirates' deputy chairwoman Olga Richterová said it was important to motivate as many people as possible to get vaccinated, ensure functional routing, ensure pupils return safely to school and keep retail and services open. Other items include free and accessible testing across the country and the development of a plan for the fall of 2021 that will include multiple options for approaching the pandemic as it evolves. ■

For your notes

PRIVATE SECTOR – ACTIVITIES

For your notes

RBP: Avenier will be central distributor of vaccines

Thursday, July 15 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

Avenier will become the central distributor of Covid-19 vaccines in the Czech Republic. Health insurance companies selected the company in a tender. This was announced by the health insurance company RBP, which coordinated the procedure. The new system should ensure a smooth and timely delivery of vaccines. The vaccines, which are supplied on the basis of a contract between the Czech Republic and the European Commission, will now be received by the distributor in its central warehouse. The company then guarantees delivery of the vaccines to a specific location within three working days of the order. If there are no objections from the unsuccessful bidder, the contract between the health insurers and Avenier will be concluded in late July/August 2021. ■

Allen & Overy advised CBA re COVID III - Invest Modification

Thursday, July 15 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

The law firm Allen & Overy represented the Czech Banking Association (CBA) in the preparation and negotiation of the complete documentation of the updated COVID III program - Invest Modification focused on the support of entrepreneurs. The aim was to provide support to entrepreneurs in drawing investment loans. The program was developed in cooperation with the Czech-Moravian Guarantee and Development Bank and the Ministry of Industry and Trade. ■

MHMP: Sampling point on Mariánské náměstí is operated by GHC Genetics

Thursday, July 15 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

As of July 15, 2021, GHC Genetics is the new operator of the COVID-19 test site on Mariánské náměstí in Prague. It is located in a tent provided by the Red Cross. In addition to PCR tests, the operator also performs antigen tests, both for insured and self-payers. Prague City Hall also informed that it will now be possible to have an express PCR test performed on site with an evaluation within 2 hours. ■

NSS complied with Alza.cz's complaints regarding e-shop outlets

Thursday, July 15 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Supreme Administrative Court (SAC) upheld the cassation complaint of Alza.cz and ruled that the ban on sales on public holidays does not apply to e-shops regardless of their size. The holiday ban would also apply to the physical dispensing of goods ordered online only if the law expressly provides for it. Alza.cz appealed against the decision of the Czech Trade Inspection Authority to impose a fine. ■

StartupBox gets Google grant; helps startups in regions

Thursday, July 15 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

Czech non-profit organization Lean Startup has succeeded in the Google.org Impact Challenge for the Central and Eastern Europe region. Its digital platform StartupBox guides entrepreneurs for free, helps them use digital tools and enables startups to develop outside of big cities. The call's aim was to support organisations that focus their activities on reducing the digital skills gap and promoting economic growth in the region. In total, the selected entities from eleven countries will share EUR 2m between them. Lean Startup will use the grant from Google to develop and expand its services and build a supportive community of startups. The organisation, which currently operates in the Czech and Slovak markets, also wants to expand its operations to other CEE countries. ■

Seznam.cz: Demand ups IT salaries and industry solidarity

Thursday, July 15 | ČIA NEWS

Seznam.cz has seen IT development jobs become more expensive during the pandemic. Tomáš Komenda, head of development of the Advertising Division, told ČIA NEWS that the need for digitalization and awareness of the need for e-commerce has raised the demand for IT positions of all kinds. According to him, coronavirus has also accelerated the development of remote collaboration tools. Developers volunteered to work for the non-profit sector, government organisations and hospitals, among others, and helped with software (SW) for free. He added that another definite epidemic trend in Seznam.cz is the sociological-psychological discipline of building relationships between teams, onboarding, and distance learning in general. ■

Aquapalace invested CZK 43m in technology, cogeneration

Thursday, July 15 | ČIA NEWS

Aquapalace Praha invested CZK 25m+ in repairs of the entire technological background. ČIA NEWS was informed by the general director Vladana Horáková that the aquapark took advantage of the forced closure of the operation due to the epidemic in spring 2020. The design and attractiveness of the Sauna World was improved, and a new Pool Bar with a whirlpool was built in the Water World. Aquapalace also installed new cogeneration units at a cost of CZK 18m during the spring closure. ■

ECONOMY - CONSEQUENCES

For your notes

CRIF: No. of companies up 8586 in H121

Thursday, July 15 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

Totally 15,924 companies were established in the Czech Republic in H1 2021, up 17% y/y. At the same time, a tenth fewer companies were dissolved (7338). This stems from the analysis of CRIF - Czech Credit Bureau. In the real estate management sector, 39% more companies were established. The manufacturing industry also recorded a significant growth (+16%). In the accommodation and catering sector, the number of new companies decreased by one-fifth year-on-year, while the number of closed ones increased slightly. The largest number of companies was established in Prague (7,470). In the Ústí nad Labem region, 76% more companies closed down than last year. ■

Profession: 47% people have problem repaying

Thursday, July 15 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

47% of people have a problem with paying their repayments. This is according to a survey conducted by the Profesia.cz job portal, adding that 16% of them are in a hopeless situation and have no money to pay their debts. Another 18% are currently using deferment or repayment insurance. According to statistics from the Czech National Bank, the share of non-performing consumer loans increased by 1.46% year-on-year. Corporate loans increased by 1.24%. This is a consequence of the end of the government moratorium. BNP Paribas Cardif Commercial Director Martin Steiner said that there was a year-on-year increase of more than 70% in insured loans in case of job loss, both for mortgages and consumer loans. ■

CNB: Pandemic ups share of food spending

Thursday, July 15 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

The weight of food in the consumer basket increased significantly during the pandemic. This was reported by the Czech National Bank (CNB), adding that with restaurants and school cafeterias closed, food consumption by households increased noticeably. At the same time, food became rapidly more expensive, leading to an increase in the share of food expenditure in family budgets. A group of items whose consumption did not change in real terms during the pandemic (e.g. rent) also saw an increase in relative weight. In contrast, households spent less on clothing, footwear and travel. ■

CVVM: 58% Czechs are worried, mainly about COVID-19

Thursday, July 15 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

58% of Czech citizens have some form of concern. This was reported by the Centre for Public Opinion Research (CVVM) of the Institute of Sociology of the CAS, adding that the proportion of such people has increased by 4 pp compared to November 2019. COVID-19 is the most frequently raised concern (22% of first and 9% of second answers). Fear for one's own health is also related to this (18%). Compared to previous surveys, concerns about migrants (from 22% in 2019 to 9%) and environmental degradation (from 22% to 4%) have decreased. Nine tenths of respondents feel safe in their place of residence. ■

Sodexo Benefits: 18% of Czechs are going on holiday abroad

Thursday, July 15 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

44% of Czechs have changed their holiday plans this year because of the pandemic. More than 67% have decided to spend the summer only in the Czech Republic, according to the Ipsos survey for Sodexo Benefit. Fewer than 18% of respondents will go abroad, most often people under 34 years of age. Martina Machová, HR director at Sodexo Benefit, said that two years ago 62% of Czechs were going abroad. About 15% of people want to spend their holidays partly in the Czech Republic and partly abroad. A majority (61.5%) of those whose plans were changed by COVID-19 opted for a domestic holiday only. 2% of Czechs will stay at home and less than 11% will go to stay with family or friends. Most often they intend to spend CZK 5-10,000 on their holiday (36% of respondents). 33% of the respondents want to spend CZK 10-20,000 for their holidays. ■

P&P's clients reduce office floor space by 20 to 30%

Thursday, July 15 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

Procházka & Partners (P&P), which advises on commercial real estate, is currently working with clients on return rates, flexibility of commitments and options to reduce floor space, most often by 20-30%, Managing Partner Radek Procházka informed. The most common negative impacts of a higher rate of hybrid model are lack of socialization, interaction between colleagues, integration of newcomers into the team or the opportunity to debate over management instructions, ideas and innovations. Procházka & Partners' Head of Transaction & Consulting Services Petr Narwa added that with an extremely flexible approach, offices become just a meeting place for meetings and 60-80% of the space can be reduced. ■

Notary Chamber sees record number of written wills

Thursday, July 15 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

Czechs made 13,420 wills with notaries in H1 2021, which is the highest number so far in the half-year. The number of wills in Q1 2021 reached 6,571, and in Q2 2021 it was 6,848. The Notary Chamber of the Czech Republic expects the number of last wills by notaries to approach 30 thousand for the whole year 2021. (for 2020 it was 23.90 thousand). The greatest interest in these services comes every year with the autumn Day of the Dead. ■

CMKB: Diesel fuel rose by 3.9% in June

Thursday, July 15 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

Daily diesel fuel contracts on the fuel market of the Czech-Moravian Commodity Exchange Kladno (CMKB) traded at an average price of CZK 13.41/l in June 2021. This is 3.9% more than in May 2021. ■