

Revolution in COVID-19 testing! Czech innovators are among the first in the world to introduce an online testing service that could provide a global solution.

Prague, 22 July 2021 – A new Czech startup is offering a unique telemedicine format of online testing for COVID-19. Marketed by the Czech company Doctor on the Phone, the online testing service is provided in partnerships with Czech physicians. The testing process is simple and has the form of an online video call between the tested client and a physician. In addition, Doctor on the Phone aspires to assist the government with drafting telemedicine legislation, which is currently absent in the Czech Republic.

Online testing is most frequently used by individuals travelling abroad by rail who need to determine their COVID-19 status instantaneously. If their test is negative, they receive the necessary certificate in the form of the EU Covid Pass. Business partners of Doctor on the Phone who use the firm's online testing service include transport companies and travel agencies.

One such user is the RegioJet passenger carrier. *"This testing method meets our needs. When, for example, Croatia makes an ad hoc change in requirements for travelers and demands a negative test from RegioJet passengers, online testing is a convenient way of conforming to the rules instantaneously. It's simple, it works, and our passengers like it,"* comments RegioJet Media Spokesperson Aleš Ondrůj.

Technical Aspects of Online Testing

Online antigen testing by Doctor on the Phone is completely safe and suitable for everyone. Testing has the format of a video call with a qualified medical specialist from SochORL, a Czechia-based medical clinic run by Tomáš Sochor, MD, which possesses all of the necessary permits from the regional authority and the regional public health authority to provide testing services in the region.

"No technical issues have been encountered thus far. We are currently working on improving the technology with the aim of boosting serviceability and the available capacity," says Chatrný.

In providing its online testing service, Doctor on the Phone primarily relies on NewGene and LEPU antigen testing kits, which have been approved not only in the Czech Republic, but in all other EU Member States as well. *"Nonetheless, customers can use other antigen test kits approved in the EU,"* Chatrný adds.

Before an antigen test is administered, the tested person provides personal data to the extent needed for performing the test and for recording the result in the person's medical file in the Czech Republic. At the same time, the tested individual consents to the performance of the test and to personal data processing.

Compliance with Laws and Regulations

"Due to the absence of specific telemedicine laws in the Czech Republic, the video testing process has been designed to comply with the Recommended Diagnostic and Therapeutic Procedures for Telemedicine issued by the Society of General Practice," explains Chatrný.

To ensure the integrity of an antigen test administered during the video call with a medical specialist, the tested individual is first duly identified by the medical specialist by showing his or her identification card to the camera. Subsequently, the entire testing process is monitored and recorded using three images from the video conversation with the tested person. The images are archived in accordance with the GDPR and applicable EU laws.

As soon as the test is completed, the medical specialist automatically records the result in the ISIN system and in the Smart Quarantine system, which is fully integrated with the Europe-wide Covid Pass system. A test certificate is issued by the ISIN system in the European Union's standardized Covid Pass format available via the Tečka application or the ISIN (UZIS) website at <https://ocko.uzis.cz/>. Certificates can be verified using the čTečka application or other similar applications used in other EU Member States.

Unequivocal Support for Vaccination

Doctor on the Phone, the provider of the service, voices clear support for vaccination against COVID-19. According to Chatrný, the vaccines are the best solution to the pandemic. *"All customers who are tested by our physicians are informed of the benefits of getting vaccinated. In addition, we are planning to promote awareness of the advantages of vaccination on our website and use other communication channels to that effect,"* adds Chatrný.

According to Chatrný, the online testing platform aims to demonstrate to the public, both at home and abroad, that the Czech Republic is ready in case that another wave of the pandemic emerges.

Doctor on the Phone continues to improve its services in terms of the technology deployed, serviceability, and user comfort. *"We appreciate any comments and suggestions that have the potential to improve our services and help all of us go back to the way of life before the pandemic as fast as possible,"* concludes Chatrný.

A description of the service and the online testing procedure is available online at www.onlinetestovani.cz.