

CASE LAW MOSAIC

QUARTERLY INFORMATION BULLETIN OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF NATIONAL MINORITIES IN HUNGARY, 2021/2

The third wave of the coronavirus pandemic had even more serious consequences for the country's population as a whole than before, and in view of this, the Minority Ombudsman paid special attention to monitoring the situation of the Roma community in the spring of 2021.

In response to the mass outbreak in the East Hungarian settlement, the Minority Ombudsman immediately contacted the Deputy State Secretary for Social Inclusion to request information on the crisis situation in the settlement and to draw attention to it. In his reply, the Deputy State Secretary confirmed that the situation in the municipality was indeed serious.

The information provided showed that the health situation in the municipality was very complex and that there was a higher than average level of vulnerability. Given the large number of people living in the same building, there was a constant risk of over-infection, which could not be adequately protected against. At the same time, rescue units were on constant alert in the municipality.

Later, the mayor of the municipality also gave a detailed account to the Minority Ombudsman of the nearly 100 people infected at the same time in the municipality, mainly in the areas where Roma live, and described the measures taken by the municipality in cooperation with the local family and child welfare services and other support organisations to help families in distress and prevent further escalation of the epidemic.

As a result of the effective action of the local government and other organisations in the municipality, the outbreak has been brought to an end.