



# GRIP DEPARTMENT COVID-19 GUIDELINES

## LEVEL 3

Wednesday, 19 August 2020

### General Covid-19 Guidelines for ALL CREW to follow:

#### Before you work:

- All crew **MUST** fill in a Covid-19 Self Declaration.
- If you, or someone you live with or have close contact with, become unwell, you must notify production immediately and **do not come to work**.
- If you or someone you are in regular close contact have a serious health condition or compromised immunity, please consider this before accepting work.
- Maintain vigilant hygiene practices also away from work. And whenever practicable, please follow Government physical distancing guidelines.

#### Sanitation is key:

- Wash/sanitise your hands regularly, particularly when entering or exiting a work site
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow
- Make sure you have (or are given access to) all necessary PPE and hand/equipment/workspace sanitisers or cleaning products.
- **Masks (or face coverings) is now a Government recommendation. All crew are strongly encouraged to wear a mask (or face covering) at Level 3.**
- Do NOT touch other department's equipment.
- Gear and props must be sanitised before and after hire. And ideally at the end of each shoot day.
- Vigilant work site, office and location cleaning is key. There are no guidelines or certification for this, but you **MUST** ensure that cleaning is done to a high professional standard.

#### Contact Tracing:

- **All NZ businesses are now required to use the Government Tracer App (or a similar digital sign-in system). Every work site, office or location will need to have this ability.**
- Make sure you adhere to the production's strict sign-in/sign-out procedures
- Keep a note of who you see and where you go outside of work

#### Physical distancing:

- At Level 3, only crew who are critical to production should attend a shoot or work gathering. Work from home if at all possible.
- Identify YOUR work bubble. Limit any interactions between other departments, suppliers or other work bubbles.
- Consider split shifts and/or creating separated work-zones for each bubble

**BE KIND! LOOK AFTER EACH OTHER!**



### Controlled, Uncontrolled or Close Proximity Environment under Level 3:

- In a **Controlled Environment** (*available hand sanitiser/PPE, and cleaning protocols, crew health screening and contact tracing procedures in place*) the minimum separation is 1 metre between people so far as reasonably practicable.
- In an **Uncontrolled Environment** (*public spaces and shops, etc.*) the minimum separation is 2 metre between people so far as reasonably practicable.
- **A Close Proximity Environment (less than 1 meter)** is NOT possible in Level 3.

### Talent & Close Proximity Bubbles:

- Please consider the number and type of talent before committing to production.
- 1m physical distancing is required for all scripted action.
- **There is no allowance for close proximity bubbles, so talent must be able to dress themselves, do their own make up and put on radio mics (under the guidance of film professionals if required).**
- **There is no allowance for extras at Level 3.**

### Catering & Unit:

- No self-serve catering or unit at Level 3.
- Pre-packaged food only. Or contactless buffet (catering staff serving up).
- Unit should be “café-style”. Or individual snack packages can be prepared and handed out.

### Location and Studio Work:

- There are no restrictions on the amount of people on a work site, but physical space and ventilation vs. number of people on site must be considered, particularly for interior locations. (Exposure to the virus over time is a key factor for virus transmission.)
- At Level 3, exterior or studio work is preferred as it’s a more controllable environment.
- Interior shooting, particularly in private residences, will be difficult, if not impossible at Level 3.
- Filming in public places, like public parks, will be possible, but there will probably be restrictions to what councils will allow. Please talk to your local council well ahead of time.
- Every production **MUST** register with ScreenSafe and have site specific Level 3 Covid-19 plans in place. (*Note: councils will not issue filming permits without this*).

### Crew and Cast Travel:

- Avoid ride sharing whenever possible.

### Travel to/from Hot-Spots:

- You are only allowed to travel to or from a hot-spot if you are returning to your place of residence OR if you’re an essential worker.
- Physical distancing and mask wearing is required for public transport and flights.

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# Department Specific Guidance as of 19<sup>th</sup> August 2020

## GRIPS - Level 3

### Introduction to Department undertakings:

- Pre-Production tasks – remote (home)
- Pre-Production tasks – at grip yard/supplier
- Management/coordination of Grip team
- Liaison with DOP and other departments in regard to technical requirements
- On-Set operation and troubleshooting as required

### Required Physical Distancing Requirements:

- The general rule of 2 metres apply at all times.
- If in a Controlled Environment, up to 1 metre physical distancing is allowed
- No close contact work (less than 1m) is permitted at Level 3.
- There are no provisions available for any worker to engage with members of the general public within 2 metres.

### Contact Tracing:

- A Government Tracer App QR-code poster (or similar digital tracing system) must be displayed at all work sites, including grip yards, equipment suppliers, etc.
- All crew and cast must sign-in when arriving and out when departing the office, grip yard and/or worksite
- Ideally this process needs to be contactless so you should consider using electronic systems if practicable.
- All entry and exit points should be controlled and monitored.
- All workers should keep a log of non-worksite locations (i.e. stores, etc.) and interactions (meeting suppliers, etc.) they have during working hours.
- All workers are recommended to keep note of their interactions outside of work hours (whilst on a job)
- All crew, cast or approved site visitors must sign a Covid-19 Declaration before starting work or visiting a work site or equipment rental house/yard.

### Department Bubbles

- Off Set Grip Department bubble (remote preparation).
- Off Set Grip Department bubble (production office / grip yard preparation)
- On Set Grip Department bubble (Unit/Tech base only)
- On Set Grip Department bubble (Unit/Tech base AND on Set)
- On Set Department HODs/Department Liaison bubble

## Department Specific Guidance

**Grip crew should be aware of and trained to work under the specific alert level in operation prior to commencing work, including the correct use of PPE.**

- Grip crew to work remotely when practicable.
- Grip / inter-departmental meetings to be remote as far as practicable.
- Physical production meetings to be carried out with physical distancing of at least 1 meter. If possible, particularly if in a confined space, a 10 person limit is recommended. All crew should wear a mask or face covering whenever practicable.
- Grip crew to be split into smaller work groups/bubbles where possible (i.e. main unit vs. 2<sup>nd</sup> unit, or off-set vs. on-set crew).
- Liaise with Production and Health & Safety in regards to contact tracing, PPE and hand/workspace/equipment sanitiser requirements for your department
- Consider specific production requirements in regards to equipment (wireless comms, remote heads, etc.) and crewing in order to ensure physical distancing and gear sanitation.
- The biggest impact to the grip department in achieving these safe work practices is the increased time needed to complete tasks.
- On set and off set bubbles to be maintained wherever practicable.

## Personal Hygiene Requirements and Measures

- Any worker who feels even the slightest unwell must not come to work. If unwell at work they must go home.
- If a worker displays any of the symptoms of COVID 19, please call Healthline immediately (0800 358 5453) or your doctor. Production and the Health & Safety Departments must also be notified. And all close contact workers to be identified.
- If a person or persons are confirmed or probable cases of COVID 19, site closure(s) should be considered. This decision should be made on the advice of a public health officials based on information on the extent of the exposure.
- Masks or face coverings is now a Government recommendation. All cast and crew should wear a mask or face covering whenever practicable.
- Workers arriving at the Production Office, grip yard or work site must wash/sanitise their hands upon arrival and prior to touching any surfaces.
- A strict personal hygiene & hand washing/sanitising regime must be observed in line with the ScreenSafe guidelines.
- Personal work stations to be cleaned/sanitised each day.
- In accordance with Ministry of Health guidelines, PPE (gloves and masks) should be available.

## **Work Space Hygiene**

### **On and off set**

- Hand sanitising stations should be readily available at production office/grip yard/location/grip truck.
- PPE (gloves, masks, face shields) to be available.
- Equipment cleaning products should be readily available at production office/grip yard/location/grip truck.
- Make sure grip crew are trained in appropriate equipment cleaning/sanitising, particularly for delicate electrical equipment like drones, remote heads, etc.
- Consider workspace layout, avoid face to face desks, and space desks 2 meters apart where possible. Engineered barriers are necessary where this separation is not practicable.
- Personal kit/equipment/laptops to be used only by one person.
- Grip equipment and Grip Truck to be sanitised at the end of each day. For larger productions, consider a designated truck coordinator who is dedicated to maintaining high hygiene practices with the equipment leaving and arriving back at the truck or yard.
- Consider investing in or hiring a sanitising fogging machine to sanitise truck/van and avoid additional time/crew resourcing to individually clean/spray equipment.
- Regular aeration of grip yard/truck, open windows when possible. Avoid recycling air.
- Air conditioning should be run on fresh air setting, not on recirculate.
- For more permanent gear storage areas (i.e. at studio or a long-term location), make sure only approved grip crew are allowed access.
- Sanitise surfaces & mop floors at the end of each day where required.
- No visitors to site. Only workers involved in the project to enter any locations or work sites.

### **Kitchen & Catering in Pre-Production**

- Stagger lunch where possible and apply physical distancing measures.
- No open snacks, fruit, shared food. Consider lunch box style lunches to be prepared. Where appropriate, consider a subsidy for workers who are required to bring own lunch.
- No food around equipment or work areas
- All communal cutlery & crockery must be sterilised in dishwasher.
- Communal kitchen items to be sanitised before & after use.
- Compostable cutlery & crockery to be used if sterilisation is not possible.

### **Drinks & Craft Services While on Set**

- No food on set
- Drinks on set only with permission by the location manager
- No-double handling of food and drinks, i.e. grabbing a coffee for your Key Grip or DOP, etc. All crew to get their own in the designated unit pickup areas.

## **Interaction with Other Departments, Suppliers, Cast & Extras**

### **Gear Prep**

- All suppliers should have their own policy and plan for dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic including contact tracing and the cleaning/sanitising of all equipment. Please notify production if you have concerns.
- Rental houses should have the gear in a prep bay cleaned and ready for pickup or testing, as well as adequate procedures for handling equipment handovers.
- Rental houses should have equipment and hand sanitiser readily available.
- Rental houses should have strict contact tracing procedures in place, i.e. a sign in/out system in place, etc.
- All equipment hand-overs should be contactless.

### **Meetings**

- Grip or inter-departmental meetings to be remote or on digital platforms as far as practicable. Or hold meetings in open areas wherever possible.
- PPE should be available for essential inter-departmental meetings for those who wish to use it.
- Physical distancing to be maintained on essential inter-departmental meetings and work (i.e. rig tests, pre-production meetings, etc.). All crew should wear a mask or face covering whenever practicable.
- Reduce physical interaction with other departments as far as reasonably practicable.
- Interactions with other crew, cast and public must be as per physical distancing protocols.

### **Travel**

- No communal travel. Where this is not possible, a mask or face covering should be worn and physical distancing must be adhered to and vehicles should be cleaned prior to and after used.
- No recycling air, clean air fan inlet only, open windows where possible.
- Crew who travel together should always be part of the same work bubble.
- A passenger log must be kept for shared vehicles.
- Shared vehicles should not be used outside work.
- Swing drivers may be required. Please consult with Transport or Production department to ensure the swing drivers follow all required or requested Covid-19 guidelines, including but not limited to: sanitation, physical distancing, contact tracing and Crew Declaration Forms.

### **Set Protocol**

- Sets should be treated as closed sets, with essential crew on set only.
- Create a zone around the camera with only one person within the zone at a time.
- A 1 meter distance to cast and other crew (DOP, 1<sup>st</sup> AC, lighting crew, etc.) must be adhered to.
- Any approach to the camera should be controlled by 1st AC or Operator/DOP.
- DOP/Operator or 1<sup>st</sup> AC should step away from camera when adjustments are needed. Preferably just a 1st AC would be making adjustments.
- To avoid on-set congestions, liaise with 1<sup>st</sup> AD for appropriate times to make adjustments.
- Steadicam operators should develop protocol for hand off of rigs. I.e. no hand off to grips, or have a dedicated grip or camera assistant to assist between takes to rest

the rig. If being assisted regular wipe downs of the rig and hand sanitation should be adhered to.

- Additional equipment, like remote heads, comms, remote focus, etc. should be considered to achieve required physical distancing.
- Consult closely with camera department if you need to plug in or require additional equipment to go on camera. Ideally this will be done by 1<sup>st</sup> AC whenever possible.
- Allow other departments time and space to complete their work.
- For enclosed shooting sets, please ensure regular aeration, open windows when possible. It is recommend that crew are allowed time during the day to get fresh air.

#### **Low-Loaders & Car Shoots**

- Remote heads and operator free setups (fixed door mount, etc.) are preferred whenever possible.
- 1m physical distancing should be observed within and around the tracking vehicle and low-loader. A mask or face covering should be worn.
- Crew on and around tracking vehicle and low-loader should be kept to an absolute minimum. Consider additional vehicles/monitors/wireless senders for other crew.
- No recycling air, clean air fan inlet only, open windows where possible.
- Vehicle interiors and frequent touch surfaces to be cleaned/sanitised between people and at the end of the day.

#### **Equipment & Kit**

- Personal kits should be cleaned at the end of each day.
- All shared kit must be cleaned/sanitised between locations and at the end of each day.
- Hands to be washed/sanitised regularly
- Consider a tag system for identifying cleaned equipment to save time.
- Everything should live cleaned in a case. Assume cases/handles are always exposed and require hand washing after handling.
- Crewing and physical distancing considerations should be given to lifting and moving of heavy equipment like dollies and cranes.
- All hygiene protocols should be adhered to around access equipment, including regular cleaning/sanitising of machinery and harnesses.

#### **Close Proximity Bubbles**

- There is no allowance for Close Proximity work or scripted action (less than 1m) at Level 3.

#### **Scheduling**

- Please consult with AD's to ensure that the shoot schedule reflects the appropriate time required to facilitate required physical distancing and sanitising guidelines. Particularly in regards to Close Proximity Bubble requirements.
- Ensure the shoot schedule reflects fatigue levels and the wellness of crew.
- Consider staggered calls and rolling lunches to maintain appropriate physical distancing.