



# DIRECTORS

## LEVEL 3 COVID-19 GUIDELINES

September 2021

### Before you work:

- All crew MUST fill in a COVID-19 Health Declaration.
- If you have any COVID-19 symptoms, **do not come to work**. Please get tested.

### Introduction to Department undertakings:

- Pre-Production tasks – remote
- Pre-Production tasks – on site / in office
- Crew and cast interactions / communications
- Liaison with other departments prior to and during production
- On-Set operation and troubleshooting as required
- Liaison and interaction with post-production

### Department Bubbles

- Off Set Director bubble (remote preparation).
- Off Set Director bubble (office preparation)
- Off Set Director bubble (rehearsals)
- Off Set Director bubble (site/studio scouting or prep)
- On Set Director bubble (Unit/Tech base only)
- On Set Director bubble (Unit/Tech base AND On Set)
- On Set Department HODs/Department Liaison bubble

### PPE Requirements:

- At Delta Alert Level 3, face coverings are strongly recommended. And it would be expected that most productions will require them as part of their H&S plan. They are mandated by the MoH for public facing businesses and work.

### Required Physical Distancing Requirements:

- The general rule of 2 metres applies at all times.
- If in a Controlled Environment, maintain at least 1 metre physical distancing between crew.
- No close contact work (less than 1m) is permitted at Level 3.
- When interacting with any public or unknown persons, crew must maintain the minimum of 2 metres physical distancing at all times.

### Contact Tracing:

- A Government Tracer App QR-code poster must be displayed at all work sites.
- All crew must sign-in when arriving and out when departing a work site.
- 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, location owners, 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 or approved site visitors must sign a COVID-19 Declaration before starting work or visiting a work site.

## Department Specific Guidance

**Directors 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.**

- Directors to work remotely as far as practicable.
- All 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. Use of a face covering is strongly recommended.
- Physical distancing of two metres wherever possible between workstations in offices if work cannot be done remotely.
- Directors should make themselves familiar with the productions specific COVID-19 protocols in regards to contact tracing (sign in/out), hygiene and physical distancing.
- The biggest impact to most productions in achieving 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 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.
- At Delta Alert Level 3, face coverings are strongly recommended. And it would be expected that most productions will require them as part of their H&S plan. They are mandated by the MoH for public facing businesses and work.
- Please wash/sanitise your hands upon arrival at a work site.
- A strict personal hygiene & hand washing/sanitising regime must be observed in line with the ScreenSafe and Ministry of Health 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/location/studio (production to supply).
- PPE (gloves, masks) to be available as required/requested (production to supply).
- Laptop/screen/equipment cleaning products should be readily available at production office/location/AD van.
- 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.
- Office equipment to be used only by one person as much as possible (i.e. laptops, printers, scanners, stationery, etc.).
- Common work surfaces in the office to be cleaned regularly (i.e. door handles, shared photocopiers, taps, light switches, etc.).
- Regular cleaning of computer terminals and phones.
- Regular aeration of office space, open windows when possible. Avoid recycling air.
- Air conditioning should be run on fresh air setting, not on recirculate.
- Sanitise surfaces & mop floors at the end of each day where required.
- Sanitising stations on location available outside of communal facilities (i.e. portaloos).
- Stairs should be used in preference to lifts.
- No visitors to site. Only workers involved in the project to enter any locations or work sites.

### **Kitchen & Catering**

- 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.
- 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.

### **Toilets, Showers & Drying Rooms**

- Physical distancing rules apply to the use of shared facilities, including toilets, shower and drying rooms.
- Sanitising stations on location available outside of communal facilities (i.e. portaloos).
- If numbers require then add additional toilet facilities, i.e. portaloos
- Hygiene posters and signage should be clearly visible in shared spaces like kitchens, toilets, entrances and exits, etc.

### **Interaction with Other Departments, Suppliers, Cast, Extras & Contributors to Factual Shoots (ie. Vox Pop).**

#### **Meetings**

- All 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 (production to supply).
- Physical distancing to be maintained on essential inter-departmental meetings and work (i.e. wardrobe fittings, pre-production meetings, tech recces, etc.). Use of a face covering is strongly recommended.
- 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. One person per vehicle only, unless in a household bubble together.
- Shared vehicles should not be used outside work. Vehicles should be cleaned prior to and after used.
- Production to supply PPE and hand/surface sanitiser.

#### **Set Protocol**

- Sets should be treated as closed sets, with essential crew on set only.
- AD's, Location and H&S Departments to monitor numbers on set as well as entry/exit points.
- Set congestion is a major hurdle in achieving physical distancing. Safety Officer and 1<sup>st</sup> AD to consult to achieve best practice staggered on-set interaction by each department.
- Create a zone around the camera with only one person within the zone at a time. I.e. DOP/Operator should step away from camera when adjustments needed by 1st/2nd AC or Grip/Sound (though preferably just a 1st AC would be making adjustments)
- Slating must only be done where physical distancing is achievable.
- No food or snacks on set. All crew must pick up their own snacks or drinks from the "café-style" unit table. No double handling of food (get your own unless you have a personal PA).
- 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.
- Main Unit, 2<sup>nd</sup> Unit and Splinter Unit to be treated as completely different units with limited physical interactions.

#### **Documentary and Other Factual Shoots:**

*Please also refer to the [Small Shoot Guidelines on the ScreenSafe COVID-19 web page](#).*

- The director needs to keep a log of everyone the crew comes into contact with, along with their contact details, and keep it for a month in case COVID-19 tracing is later required.
- Ask other people you'll spend time with, such as Crew, Cast or Public (for Vox Pop, etc.), if they are feeling well and think they're virus-free.
- Where possible, work outside, or at least where there's good airflow.
- Use of a face covering is strongly recommended, particularly in public spaces or situations where physical distancing may be hard.
- Adhere to relevant physical distancing requirements at all times (2m in public settings and 1m in controlled environments).

- Production company to provide PPE (masks, gloves, etc.), hand sanitiser and sanitary spray/wipes.
- Radio mic'ing of talent is not possible at Level 3 (due to physical distancing restrictions).
- Be sensitive to the Talent's requests in regards to Covid-19, so they feel comfortable.

#### **Equipment**

- Personal equipment, bags and clothing should only be carried or moved by the director (or their personal PA if they have one).
- Distribution of communal equipment (i.e. radios) and/or paperwork to be done via a separate distribution desk on location, with sanitising equipment available prior to pick up.
- Drop off or replacement of radios/batteries/accessories to be in a separate designated area isolated from clean radios. This equipment MUST be sanitised before reuse and distribution.
- No reuse of headsets/mics. New crew member, new headset/mic.
- Radios used whilst shooting (used in vehicles) should be returned to the AD van and sanitised prior to reuse.
- On a factual shoot, look after your own filming equipment unless you've worked out an agreement about handling gear during the day, e.g. the director carrying the tripod.
- Sanitise your gear at the start and end of every day, especially the handles.

#### **Call Sheets and Sides**

- As far as practicable, a paperless production should be the goal. I.e. no handing out of physical paperwork unless essential.
- Digital call sheets and paperwork should be used whenever practicable. If not, named paper sides, call sheets, etc. to be distributed by a designated AD or Production person, i.e. no piles of sides/call sheets to search through.

#### **Cast**

- Physical distancing of 1m is required when interacting with talent.
- COVID-19 information to be distributed to cast prior to their arrival on set.
- All cast must fill in a COVID-19 Health Declaration prior to work.
- Consider number of cast and their health (elderly, etc.) and the ability for physical distancing both on and off-set before commencing production.
- Face masks/coverings and PPE shall be made available to all cast.
- Cast may be asked to use a face covering whenever practicable. Some productions may require this as part of their H&S plan.
- All cast to wash/sanitise hands on arrival at location/studio.
- A COVID-19 induction and health check on arrival by a competent person, i.e., registered nurse, paramedic or the safety officer.
- Whenever possible, a specific cast area must be set up with physical distancing observed.
- Whenever possible, one AD should be assigned to key cast and another AD assigned to additional cast.
- Personal bags or items should be left in the cast/costume/make up area.
- Each cast member may want a water proof wet bags for their personal items to travel to set. Only 3rd AD or cast to carry this, and only cast member is to put things in & take things out.
- No phones on set, no one else to handle cast personal belongings.
- Disposable Cast water bottles are recommended. Cast to handle their own food – no double handling.
- ADs to sign in/out cast at the start and end of the working day. Contactless is preferred so you should consider using electronic systems if practicable.

#### **Close Proximity Bubbles**

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

#### **Extras**

- Use of extras is not recommended as it can be difficult to apply the required risk minimisation and control. In some instances it may be possible if strict control measures can be achieved.

#### **Scheduling**

- The Producer and 1<sup>st</sup> AD must ensure that the shoot schedule reflects additional time required to facilitate required physical distancing guidelines and hygiene protocols.
- Ensure the shoot schedule reflects fatigue levels and the wellness of crew.
- Consider staggered calls and rolling lunches to maintain appropriate physical distancing.

- Appropriate time must be allocated for a thorough H&S/Covid-19 site induction at the start of the day and at each location.
- Crew may need additional time for gear cleaning/sanitising between locations moves and at the end of the day, so you may need to allow time for this.