



# HEALTH & SAFETY DEPARTMENT

## LEVEL 2 COVID-19 GUIDELINES

September 2021

### **Please Note:**

*All Safety Officers should make themselves familiar with all current ScreenSafe, Ministry of Health and WorkSafe COVID-19 guidelines. An in-depth knowledge of ScreenSafe's COVID-19 Standards, Protocols and Department Guidelines will be expected.*

### **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
- Production and distribution of H&S Safety and Covid-19 Protocols/Guidelines
- Crew and cast interactions / communications
- Management/coordination of Health & Safety during pre-production, shoot and wrap.
- Management/coordination of safety crew and equipment
- Liaison with other departments prior to and during production
- Consultation with ScreenSafe, MOH and WorkSafe as required.
- On-Set operation and troubleshooting as required

### **Department Bubbles**

- Off Set Health & Safety Department bubble (remote preparation).
- Off Set Health & Safety Department bubble (office preparation)
- Off Set Health & Safety Department bubble (rehearsals)
- Off Set Health & Safety Department bubble (site/studio prep)
- On Set Health & Safety Department bubble (Unit/Tech base only)
- On Set Health & Safety Department bubble (Unit/Tech base AND on Set)
- On Set Department HODs/Department Liaison bubble

### **PPE Requirements:**

- At Delta Alert Level 2, 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 less than 1m permitted unless essential AND you have been approved to be part of a Close Proximity Bubble.
- Creation of Close Proximity Bubbles must be done in consultation with Production, Cast, Health & Safety and other affected departments.
- 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**

**Health & Safety 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.**

- Health & Safety crew to work remotely as far as practicable.
- Health & Safety / 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. 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.
- Health & Safety crew to be split into smaller work groups/bubbles where possible (i.e. prep vs. shoot crew or Main Unit vs. 2<sup>nd</sup> Unit, etc.).
- Specific Health & Safety OR Production Role(s) to be created to document, administer and track all of the contact tracing, PPE and hand/workspace/equipment sanitiser requirements for the production and all departments.
- Any crew charged with collecting and sorting Crew Declarations and other personal data should be adequately briefed on the Privacy Act and the need for confidentiality and secure storage of such info.
- The biggest impact to most departments in achieving safe work practices is the increased time needed to complete tasks.
- Monitor Crew and Cast fatigue levels in regards to heightened risk for COVID-19.
- Consult with other departments to consider specific production requirements in regards to equipment (wireless comms, remote heads, etc.) and crewing requirements in order to ensure physical distancing and regular gear sanitation.
- On set and off set bubbles to be maintained wherever practicable.
- All productions must register with ScreenSafe and have a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place.
- All productions must have a named and designated COVID-19 Officer.

## **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.
- 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.
- At Delta Alert Level 2, 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.
- In accordance with Ministry of Health guidelines, PPE (gloves and masks) should be available for those who either require or wish to use them.

## **Work Space Hygiene**

### **On and off set**

- Hand sanitising stations should be readily available at production office/location/studio.
- PPE (gloves, masks) to be available.
- 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 or 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 should be available outside of communal facilities.
- 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**

### **Meetings**

- Health & Safety 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.
- 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**

- Ride-sharing is not recommended unless you are already in a small and regular work bubble and if physical distancing is maintained. Use of a face covering is strongly recommended.
- Crew who travel together should always be part of the same work bubble.
- No recycling air, clean air fan inlet only, open windows where possible.
- A passenger log must be kept for shared vehicles.
- Shared vehicles should not be used outside work without being sanitised first.

### **Unit Base & Site Protocols**

- Consult with Production & Location Departments to establish strict protocols for on-site sign in/out protocols, and to ensure all crew and cast have signed a COVID-19 Self Declaration.
- A thorough H&S and COVID-19 briefing must be done at the start of each day and at each location.

- No un-authorised visitors on site.

#### **PPE, Testing, etc.**

- At Delta Alert Level 2, 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.
- Temperature testing is another tool to have up your sleeve, but some crew or cast may not want this. And it is not something that can currently be enforced. But it could be handy to have in your kit if any crew are feeling unwell.
- Some productions may choose to do surveillance testing of workers. Please familiarise yourself with testing options and discuss requirements and crew privacy concerns with the Producer(s) before implementing.

#### **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. Consult with 1<sup>st</sup> AD 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.
- Colour coded armband or similar tools may be considered to separate different bubbles on set.
- 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.

#### **Equipment**

- Personal kits should be cleaned at the end of each day.
- Medical kits, harnesses and other shared equipment must be regularly cleaned/sanitised.
- Medical kits and fire extinguishers on set: only designated Health & Safety crew to handle this and its contents.
- 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.

#### **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**

- 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 extras/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**

*Close proximity tasks (0-1metre) introduces a higher risk and PCBU's must eliminate or minimize this increased risk by applying the appropriate control measures.*

- Close contact scenes with less than a metre physical distance (a Close Proximity Environment) must only be done after thorough discussion and mutual agreements with producer, Cast/Agent and other affected departments (H&S, Make Up, etc.).
- *Specific guidance around intimacy scenes (kissing, etc.) is yet to come. If required, please contact ScreenSafe or WorkSafe for advice.*
- For some productions longer-term Close Proximity Bubbles might be created to avoid contact with other bubbles (i.e. key Cast, their Make Up Artist, Costume Standby and/or PA/Driver).
- Communication must be clear about who is in the Close Proximity Bubble.
- The Close Proximity Bubble size must be kept to minimum, ideally less than 3. No more than 10 people.
- Time spent in Close Proximity should be limited to the absolute minimum necessary time. No more than 15 minutes.
- Maintain a 1m physical distance during rehearsals, blocking, read throughs whenever possible. Close contact under 15mins only.
- While in a Close Proximity Bubble, contact with other bubbles should be kept to an absolute minimum. The crew member should also consider the extent and impact this may have on their family and social life.
- Cast's individual comfort levels must be taken into account and there must be no coercion. Consent must be gained for each and every scene of an intimate/close nature. Cast must never be required to perform intimate or close action they are not comfortable with.
- The emphasis is on transparency and communication. Performers will get scripts and information regarding the intimate/close scenes well in advance of rehearsals and shooting. They need to know the level of intimacy/physical action required in detail and the length of time expected to be in close/intimate proximity.
- Cast will be given adequate time to consult privately with their agent prior to agreeing to the scene. Nothing should be last minute.
- Close Environment scene details shall be re-confirmed prior to blocking/filming and Cast and crew comfort levels re-assessed.
- Crew working in a Close Proximity Bubble should wear appropriate PPE if requested or recommended.
- Use of a face covering is strongly recommended.
- If you choose to wear PPE, the type is up to you and should be based on the level of risk for your business or service, the working proximity, the physical work area, and the length of time people are together.
- Work should only be completed within one metre if it can't otherwise be achieved. The time spent in Close Proximity needs to be kept to a minimum. At all other times, a one meter distance should be maintained.
- *Please familiarise yourself with the Close Proximity and Scene Specific Guidance sections of the ScreenSafe Covid-19 Protocols.*

### **Managing Close Contact & Close Proximity Bubbles**

- A site-specific Safety Officer should be on hand to advise crew if close contact situations may become necessary.
- Larger productions will probably adapt their own protocols to compliment the ScreenSafe Protocols to address how to deal with specific Close Proximity situations.

- For the avoidance of doubt, here are some examples of situations that may arise on set:
  - Example 1: A long running drama production with extensive hair/make up and costume requirements for the 2 lead cast.
    - Solution: A permanent Close Proximity Bubble is established for the lead cast, their personal dresser(s) (also to be on-set standby) and their Make Up artist(s) (also to be on-set standby). As these are high profile cast in a big budget production, the producer decides that their personal driver(s) is also included in this bubble. Face coverings is used.
  - Example 2: The radio mic is acting up and needs adjusting.
    - Solution: The sound mixer to consult with Cast, 1<sup>st</sup> AD & Safety Officer. As it will only take 1 or 2 minutes, it is agreed that the Sound Mixer adjust the radio mic while still on the cast member. Face coverings is used.
  - Example 3: The grips need to lift the dolly up some stairs to get it into location. It's very heavy and 3-4 grips are needed to work in close proximity to lift it.
    - Solution: As it will only take 1-2 minutes the Safety Officer says this is fine. Face coverings is used.

- **Extras**

- Extras are often day-players who can not be expected to have as much filming experience as most crew. Neither will they always be aware of the strict hygiene and safety measures put in place to keep our industry working during this pandemic.
- Due to the extended social bubble an extra has outside a production, minimise or avoid using extras and day-players as much as possible.
- For longer productions, it is recommended that you establish a pool of regular, trusted extras.
- Prior to filming, we recommend you liaise directly with extras agents to make sure they are aware of the strict hygiene and contact tracing measurements required, and that this information is passed on to extras prior to them turning up on the day.
- COVID-19 information to be distributed to extras prior to their arrival on set.
- Take extra care to make certain all extras have filled in a COVID-19 Health Declaration before starting work.
- A COVID-19 induction and health check on arrival by a competent person, i.e., registered nurse, paramedic or the safety officer.
- Make sure extras or day players do NOT turn up to work if they are feeling unwell or are symptomatic.
- It is strongly recommended that extras use a face covering whenever practicable. Some productions may require this as part of their H&S plan.
- All extras to wash/sanitise hands on arrival at location/studio
- It is recommended that you establish a separate Extras Bubble for extras and the crew working with them. Whenever possible we recommend a separate AD, Unit, Costume team from the main shooting bubble.
- It is recommended that the Extras Bubble has its own areas for costume, unit and catering, separate to the main crew.
- A designated extras area set up with appropriate physical distancing observed. Individuals to remain in the same seat for the duration of the day when not on set, i.e. no seat swapping and mingling.
- All personal belongings to be left in designated area. No personal items to be taken to set.
- No communal catering/refreshment area for extras. All food/refreshments via unit team (see Unit Department guidelines).
- When practicable or required, divide ADs to look after an assigned number of extras throughout the day (through wardrobe, makeup, direction on set, etc.)
- Crowd scenes can only be filmed if physical distancing is achievable.
- ADs to sign in/out extras at the start and end of the working day. Contactless is preferred so you should consider using electronic systems if practicable.

### **Scheduling**

- Ensure that the shoot schedule reflects additional time required to facilitate required physical distancing 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.

- Sufficient 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.