



SPFX DEPARTMENT

LEVEL 2 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
- Specialised rig creation and testing – remote
- Specialised rig testing – on location
- Management and coordination of project
- Management and coordination of crew, work sites and equipment
- Liaison with Director and other departments in regards to creative and logistical requirements
- On-Set operation and troubleshooting as required

Department Bubbles

- Off Set Special Effects Department bubble (remote preparation)
- Off Set Special Effects Department bubble (office/workshop)
- On Set Special Effects Department bubble (Unit/Tech base only)
- On Set Special Effects 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.
- *While every production is different, a Close Proximity Bubble will generally be unlikely for the Special Effects Department. Such bubbles can only be created after thorough discussion and approval by production and other affected departments/crew. Agreed safety precautions and PPE requirements must be adhered to at all times.*
- 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

Special Effects Department 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.

- Special Effects Department crew to work remotely when practicable.
- Special Effects Department / 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.
- Special Effects Department crew to be split into smaller work groups/bubbles where possible (i.e. separation between off-set vs. on-set crew, etc.). It is noted that due to the specialised nature of some rigs, the off-set and on-set bubble may be the same crew.
- Physical distancing of two metres wherever possible between workstations if work cannot be done remotely.
- Minimal contact with on-set shooting bubble is advised. It is advised that one Special Effects crew member is the only liaison with the on-set shooting bubble.
- Please consider manpower and physical distancing requirements for work involving heavy lifting and/or possible close contact situations. Close Proximity Bubbles (less than 1m) should only be established in consultation and approval with your department, production and H&S officer.
- Liaise with Production and Health & Safety in regards to contact tracing, PPE and hand/workspace/equipment sanitiser requirements for your department
- *For larger productions, a specific Special Effects Role may need to be created to document, administer and track all of the contact tracing, PPE and hand/workspace/equipment sanitiser requirements for your department.*
- *Special Effects Department 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.*
- Consider specific production requirements in regards to crewing in order to ensure physical distancing and sanitation.
- The biggest impact to the Special Effects Department in achieving these safe work practices is the increased time needed to complete tasks safely and hygienically.
- 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 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.
- 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 guidelines.
- Personal work stations to be cleaned/sanitised each day.

- Alcohol based sanitisers are flammable. Please ensure your hands are completely dry of all sanitisers before coming into contact with any heat or ignition source.
- In accordance with Ministry of Health guidelines, PPE (gloves and masks) should be available.
- 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 Space Hygiene

On and off set

- Hand sanitising stations should be readily available at production office/workshop/location/studio.
- PPE (gloves, masks, face shields) to be available.
- Equipment cleaning products should be readily available at production office/workshop/location/studio.
- Make sure Special Effects Department crew are trained in appropriate equipment cleaning/sanitising, particularly for electrical equipment.
- 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.
- Common work surfaces in offices to be cleaned regularly (i.e. door handles, shared photocopiers, taps, light switches, etc.).
- Specialised equipment, rigs, etc. to be sanitised at the end of each day.
- For larger productions, consider a designated cleaning coordinator who is dedicated to maintaining high hygiene practices with equipment. And for equipment leaving and arriving back.
- Consider investing in or hiring a sanitising fogging machine to sanitise workshops, work areas and equipment to avoid additional time/crew resourcing to individually clean/spray equipment/props.
- Regular aeration of offices and workshop, open windows when possible. Avoid recycling air.
- Air conditioning should be run on fresh air setting, not on recirculate.
- Ensure only approved Special Effects Department crew are allowed access to workshop and props storage areas.
- Close proximity tasks gatherings are limited to 10 people.
- To avoid congestion consider staggered calls to manage the flow of crew arriving.
- Sanitise surfaces & mop floors at the end of each day where required.
- A cleaning record should be kept.
- 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.
- Consider staggered shifts and break/lunch times to avoid congestion at workshop(s).
- Designate a specific delivery spot for each site. Unless impracticable, all deliveries should be to the gate/main door of the site only.
- Delivery drivers should remain in their vehicles if the load will allow it or must wear gloves or wash/sanitise their hands before unloading goods and materials.

Studios and Larger Work Sites

- If in a studio or other large working facility, discuss the need for bubble/workzone separation within the worksite (i.e. Special Effects having their own bubble with designated parking/toilets/kitchen, etc.) as well as the possibility of separate entry/exit points for departments.
- Make sure each allocated workzone has enough room to adhere to physical distancing guidelines.
- Ensure adequate airflow/ventilation for studio/indoor spaces.
- Air conditioning should be run on fresh air setting, not on recirculate.
- Atmos & ventilation systems to be checked & verified/certified 'safe' before shoots. Also only used when necessary.
- Sound stages should be ventilated regularly by opening large stage doors. HVAC systems can be used, be mindful of the where the HVAC system is blowing air as this can facilitate the spread droplets.
- Studio doors to be kept open as much as possible to prevent close proximity traffic through small doors.
- No visitors to site. Only workers involved in the project to enter any locations or work sites. Appropriate security measures to be put into place.

- Studio facilities be assessed for health and safety concerns before it is re-occupied; any hazards will be addressed.
- Landlords/Owners/Councils are required to ensure any potential risks are communicated to the PCBU leasing the location and controls identified to mitigate the risk.
- Councils may audit the health and safety protocols of a production when they have undertakings on council owned or operated locations.

Kitchen & Catering in Pre-Production

- 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.
- 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.

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.

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 HOD or work colleague. All crew to get their own in the designated unit pickup areas.

Interaction with Other Departments, Suppliers, Cast & Extras

Suppliers

- Suppliers and vendors should have their own policy and plan for dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic including contact tracing and cleaning/sanitising of all supplies.
- Private suppliers or “everyday” shops/hardware stores, etc. may not have suitable COVID-19 measures in place. Make sure you maintain physical distancing and necessary hygiene/sanitation. Cleaning/sanitation of purchase or hires may be required.
- Contactless pickup from suppliers is preferred.

Meetings

- Special Effects 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. rig tests, pre-production meetings, tech reces, etc.). Use of a face covering is strongly recommended.
- Main Unit, 2nd Unit and Splinter Unit should if practicable be treated as completely different units with limited physical interactions.
- 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.
- 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

Set Protocol

- Sets should be treated as closed sets, with essential crew on set only.
- A 1 meter distance to cast and other crew (DOP, 1st AD, lighting crew, etc.) must be adhered to.

- To avoid on-set congestions, liaise with 1st AD for appropriate times to bring in equipment, set up or make adjustments.
- Establishment of Special Effects rigs should ideally be done prior to the shoot day or prior to other crew entering location/set. Necessary adjustments to be done after blocking and per 1st AD's instructions.
- Allow other departments time and space to complete their work.
- For enclosed shooting sets, please ensure regular aeration, open windows when possible. It is recommended that crew are allowed time during the day to get fresh air.

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 boxes or cases. 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 items like furniture, fake walls, etc.
- Alcohol based sanitisers are flammable. Please ensure your hands are completely dry of all sanitisers before coming into contact with any heat or ignition source.

Cast

- Interaction with Cast should be kept to a minimum. A minimum 1m physical distancing must be adhered to.
- Handing of physical props, etc. to Cast must be contactless.
- Strict hygiene protocols should be followed with cleaning prior to being handed over and upon return from Cast.

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.
- 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.*

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.
- Discuss your pre-dress requirements with 1st AD/Locations/Production in advance to avoid congestion on the shoot day.
- Ensure the shoot schedule reflects fatigue levels and the wellness of crew.
- Consider staggered calls and rolling lunches to maintain appropriate physical distancing.