

COVID-19

Shooting Guidelines

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The UK is currently experiencing a public health emergency as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is critical that employers, employees and the self-employed take steps to keep everyone safe.

Under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, all employers have a legal duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of anyone who has contact with their business (employees, freelancers, contractors, members of the public etc.). The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 sit beneath this law and provide detail on what a safety management system should look like (e.g., how your business identifies and assesses its risks, takes steps to control them, trains relevant staff, and monitors/reviews its safety processes to ensure they are being carried out correctly and remain effective). [The HSE](#) has produced detailed guidance on this. Failure to comply with a business' health and safety duties is a criminal offence.

The purpose of this document is to assist production companies to assess and manage their COVID-19 risks on shoots and identify reasonable and practical steps to safeguard the health and safety of everyone attending a film shoot in relation to COVID-19.

The latest [UK Government guidance](#) on how businesses should control COVID-19 risks, as well as these Guidelines, should be considered (and relevant parts implemented) as you work through your business' safety management procedure, particularly when carrying out your COVID-19 risk assessment.

In addition, everyone working on the production and attending it has responsibilities in respect of COVID-19. They can meet them by working in accordance with these Guidelines.

In applying this guidance, productions must:

- Consider how decisions and policies may affect people with different [protected characteristics](#) under the [Equality Act 2010](#) and assess whether any further adjustments should be made in respect of such individuals. Productions are also advised to explore any concerns raised by cast or crew about attending the production, even in cases where protected characteristics do not appear to be relevant.
- Follow [ICO guidance](#) on storing data and testing. Ensure that the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is observed, which will involve understanding suitable lawful bases, notifying people of any testing that is undertaken and completing a [data protection impact assessment](#).

This document has been prepared in consultation with the Department for Digital, Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) with input from APA members and in consultation with Public

Health England (PHE) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). It will be updated regularly in response to feedback on how it works in practice, new Government law and regulation.

It is very important that you review [UK Government updates](#) in law and guidance so that your risk assessment and procedures are updated to reflect these changes. Please ensure you are working from the latest guidance which is [HERE](#).

NB: These guidelines are based on the law and guidance for filming in England. Productions based in [Northern Ireland](#), [Scotland](#) and [Wales](#) should additionally check for the relevant devolved Government guidance as it may differ.

Productions should always be sensitive to local restrictions in place where you are filming. If so, you should first read the guidance relevant to that area as this may supersede guidance in this document.

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GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES

Commercial production is not a sector which has been required to legally close as a result of COVID-19. The risk of transmission can be substantially reduced if UK Government [COVID-19 Secure Guidelines](#) are followed closely, including working from home where workers can do so effectively. These Guidelines comprise general steps to working safely plus more detailed guidance notes focusing on specific work environments.

The steps to working safely are as follows:

- Carry out a COVID-19 risk assessment, following [UK Government guidance](#).
- Develop cleaning, hand washing and hygiene procedures.
- Wear face coverings whilst around people you don't usually meet.
- Help people work from home.
- Maintain two metres social distancing, where possible or 1 metre with extra precautions in place as per the Key Principles section below.
- Increase ventilation.
- Take part in [NHS Test and Trace](#).
- Turn people with coronavirus symptoms away.

The more detailed guidance documents provide additional requirements for businesses' COVID-19 risk assessments and advise that companies must:

- Share the results of their COVID-19 risk assessment with their workforce.
- Facilitate and support employee use of the NHS Track and Trace app within workplaces wherever possible, while recognising that the app is not mandatory. See specific [UK Government guidance](#) on workplace NHS Track & Trace.
- Demonstrate to their workers and customers that they have properly assessed their risk and taken appropriate measures to mitigate this. You should do this by displaying a [Staying COVID-19 Secure in 2020](#) notification in a prominent place in your business and on your website.

The UK Government has issued [further detailed guidance](#) on the following essential areas:

- > Thinking about risk.
- > Who should go to work.
- > Social distancing for workers.
- > Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and face coverings.

Alongside [useful FAQs](#) on what you can and can't do during the pandemic.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Some medical context on COVID-19 (Read more on the [WHO site](#))

- The time from exposure to COVID-19 to the moment when symptoms begin is, on average 5-6 days but can range from 1-14 days.
- COVID-19 is transmitted from infected people's respiratory secretions (coughs/sneezes) reaching the nose, eyes or mouth. These droplets can also be picked up from surfaces, if you touch a surface and then your face without washing your hands first.
- According to the [UK Government](#), most people with Coronavirus have 1 of the 3 most common symptoms. These are a fever, a new, continuous dry cough and/or loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.
- Some people with COVID-19 suffer or show no apparent symptoms. Asymptomatic sufferers may still be infected and there is strong scientific evidence that they can transmit the virus too.

KEY PRINCIPLES

The purpose of social distancing, increased cleaning of hands and surfaces and PPE is to break transmission of the virus and reduce the risk of infection.

We should operate on the basis that we all have the potential to be asymptomatic carriers and must adhere to the safety principles to minimise risk. Therefore, the following essential rules are based on current [UK Government guidelines](#), and must be adhered to:

- Maintain social distancing wherever possible (2m, or 1m+ with risk mitigation where 2m is not viable).
- Wash your hands with soap and water, or hand sanitiser (containing at least 60% alcohol) for at least 20 seconds as often as possible.
- Cover your face in enclosed spaces, especially where social distancing may be difficult and where you come into contact with people you don't normally meet.
- Report any COVID-19 symptoms to your employer.
- Work from home where possible.
- Where the social distancing guidelines cannot be followed in full, productions should take all the mitigating actions possible to reduce the risk of transmission by:
 - > considering whether an activity needs to continue for the business to operate.
 - > keeping the activity time involved as short as possible.
 - > using screens or barriers to separate people from each other.
 - > using back-to-back or side-to-side working whenever possible.
 - > staggering arrival and departure times.
 - > reducing the number of people each person has contact with by using fixed teams or partnering.

APA BEST PRACTICES

These are recommendations as to how to structure your live-action production, over and above Government guidelines and, again, they will be constantly reviewed and updated.

Productions should consider implementing the following:

- A clear system for the communication and dissemination of COVID-19 related information, including:
 - > Signing of the Health Declaration Form in Appendix 1.
 - > Remote pre-shoot briefing for cast and crew, and daily digital briefings/reminders where applicable.
 - > Supplementary briefing to communicate any change in protocols and guidance
- Ask all recipients to acknowledge receipt of COVID-19 briefings, maintain dialogue about COVID-19 safe practice and ensure that cast and crew are able to ask questions.
- Set in place an appropriate way to identify any member of cast and crew who is at increased risk from contracting COVID-19 and discuss their participation with them in the context of their own approach to risk and the health advice from their own health professionals (with consent) and, if appropriate, any production medical advisor. [UK Government definitions](#) and guidance for those who are clinically vulnerable and clinically extremely vulnerable must always be followed.
- Set out clear procedures for instances of non-compliance with COVID-19 safe working:
 - > A concise process to implement immediately if any cast or crew member does not adhere to required COVID-19 safe practice; all cast and crew should be made aware of this before commencing work.

Both pre-production and production are likely to take longer to enable compliance as a result of these measures.

The number of people on location should be kept to a minimum. Anyone - production staff, cast, crew, agency and client - who is not absolutely necessary to have at the location to make the film should not attend.

Every person who will be attending the location must sign the COVID-19 Health Declaration Form (Appendix 1).

We have organised our best practices as follows:

- Health and Safety - General
- Pre-production
- Budget and Contract
- Production Office
- Casting
- The Shoot - General
- Talent on Set
- Location Shooting
- Studio Shooting
- Wardrobe
- Hair and Make-up
- Crewing Up
- Technical Crew
- Hired Equipment - General
- Catering
- Travel
- Overseas Production Under APA Contract
- Face Coverings, Enhanced Protection and PPE

NB: These materials are for general information purposes only, are not intended to constitute legal or other professional advice and should not be relied on or treated as a substitute for specific advice relevant to particular circumstances.

HEALTH AND SAFETY - GENERAL

- Carry out a full risk assessment for each production at the recce. We recommend that this is done by a Health and Safety Officer.
- All HoDs should submit their own departmental risk assessments which set out their COVID-19 precautions.
- All crew and talent to provide contacts for family/household in case of emergency on the day of shooting, as per the Health Declaration Form (Appendix 1).
- You may choose to have a Health and Safety Officer on the shoot (e.g.: on a larger shoot with multiple elements) but their expertise and value usually lie in attending the recce, carrying out the risk assessment and making recommendations to minimise COVID-19 risks. We recommend you have a COVID Supervisor to implement and monitor COVID measures as per Appendix 2. This person must oversee the implementation and monitoring of necessary controls, with authority to stop unsafe working practices. They should have undertaken the [APA COVID Guidelines Assessment Test](#).
- Avoid sharing hand tools and personal property (mobile phones, pens, walkies etc.) Crew must be responsible for the safety and sanitisation of their own items.
- In an emergency (e.g.: an accident, provision of first aid, fire, break-in, etc.) people do not have to stay two metres apart if it would be unsafe to do so. Those involved in the provision of assistance to others should pay particular attention to sanitisation measures immediately afterwards including washing hands.
- Conduct daily COVID-19 symptom checks with cast and crew. Consider the following:
 - > Ask each crew member daily whether they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms
 - > Ensure that all symptom-checking data recorded complies with GDPR. Following detailed [UK Government guidance](#).
- If anyone suffers COVID-19 symptoms, they should inform the producer and follow [UK Government guidance](#) on self-isolation and [testing](#) which requires them to self-isolate for 10 days and get a test. If the test is positive, then they must complete the 10 days of self-isolation. If it is negative, then they can stop self-isolating.
- Anyone with a high temperature must continue to self-isolate even if:
 - > they have had and recovered from coronavirus symptoms in this time.
 - > they get a negative test result for coronavirus.
- The APA recommends that anyone who has been in close contact with a person with symptoms who has not yet taken a test should self-isolate until the status of the person with symptoms is confirmed. If that case is confirmed then contacts should follow [UK Government guidance](#) and self-isolate for 10 days from the day of contact.
- A 'contact' is a person who has been close to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 anytime from 2 days before the person was symptomatic up to 10 days from onset of symptoms (this is when they are infectious to others). This includes anyone you have been within 2 meters of for 15 minutes or more. The same rule applies if you have been in a car or vehicle with someone.

NB: See detailed [UK Government guidance](#) on who is a 'contact'.

- Although it is best practice, not everyone on set may be registered for NHS Test & Trace or it may not work properly so the APA recommendation is to treat everyone who has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 as being required to self-isolate at home for 10 days as if they had been notified via NHS Test & Trace.
- As per [UK Government guidance](#), anyone that does not have symptoms but has tested positive for COVID-19, must stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days from the day the test was taken. If they develop symptoms after the test, they must restart the 10-day isolation period from the day the symptoms start.

PRE-PRODUCTION

- Scripts and treatments need to bear in mind the current restrictions in both their messaging tone and the mechanics of their production. Production companies should take every opportunity to advise agencies and advertisers as to how to create a script which can be shot in compliance with these guidelines, so it can be produced.
- Get approvals from agency/client as early as possible. Finalise as many creative decisions as possible no later than the PPM in order to reduce last minute changes on shoot days, and to plan for all sanitary accommodations.
- Encourage early confirmation of projects to allow for additional prep time. Also, encourage and explain the need to the agency and client the importance of sticking to scheduled confirmation dates.
- Where possible all pre-production processes should be managed remotely from home: including storyboards, production meetings, meetings with the agency and PPMs.
- Distribute these guidelines to all involved in the production.

BUDGET AND CONTRACT

- Cost the requirements of this protocol within your bids. Should regulations change, space needs to be made by agency/client to accommodate these if production incurs further costs.
- State on your bid letter that anyone attending the shoot for the agency, client and/or production company will be required to adhere to the COVID-19 APA Shooting Guidelines.
- The production should be planned to minimise COVID-19 related disruption risks so far as it is reasonably practicable to do so. In respect of the COVID-19 related risks to production which remain:
 - > Make provision for what happens in the event of such disruption (e.g., an agreement that the director or cast will be replaced if they become unavailable because of COVID-19).

NB: As per the Tripartite Agreement states the advertiser will underwrite costs incurred due to coronavirus for postponement or cancellation. The obligation of the production company (and agency) in that agreement is to plan the production in such a way as to minimise the risk of COVID-19 disruption and to mitigate the effects of such disruption if it occurs.

PRODUCTION OFFICE

- Avoid printing and paper distribution (e.g.: call sheets and shooting schedules) except for clear safety posters on set.

NB: for guidance on companies' office buildings (rather than temporary location production offices) please refer to the [APA COVID-19 Office Guidelines](#).

CASTING

- Casting sessions and callbacks where possible should be done remotely via video link ups and self-casting.
- When casting children, their supervising adult should remain close at hand.
- Those aged 70 or over or classed as [clinically vulnerable](#), should be given special consideration and enhanced measures. See [UK Government guidance](#) on protecting the clinically vulnerable and definitions.
- Consider what you will do if needing to replace talent.
- Ask agency to not confirm any cast until they have signed the Health Declaration form (Appendix 1).

THE SHOOT - GENERAL

- Stagger call times where possible to avoid congestion.
- Keep the unit as small as possible and minimise the number of crew/agency/cast on set at any one time.
- Consider reducing the number of people each person has contact with by using fixed teams, cohorts or partnering (so each person works with only a few others). For example, where social distancing may be impractical due to the degree of proximity required (such as intimate/fighting scenes, dancing, costume fitting, hair and make-up), fixed teams could be operated as follows:
 - > to group individuals into fixed teams that work together throughout a production or for specific periods of a production to minimise the risk of transmission beyond these fixed groups.
 - > to minimise transmission risk between fixed groups when they mix outside their group during shooting, during breaks or moving around a venue.

If necessary, have large enough areas for crew holding to enable alternating teams in the working area.

- Consider a video-conferencing facility relaying video village remotely to agency/client.
- Consider increasing video monitors on set to avoid clusters of people.
- Set out best practice personal hygiene for crew, in line with UK Government and Public Health Authorities' guidance, including washing and thoroughly dry hands on arrival and during the day at regular intervals.

- Provide clearly visible and spacious hygiene stations for washing, with plentiful supply of alcohol-based hand sanitiser and wipes and soap and water provided wherever possible.
- All crew to be regularly briefed on and adhere to any safety guidelines or notices given on the day.
- Consider conducting daily COVID-19 symptom checks with cast and crew.
- Consider any space markers where possible and one-way routes to minimise interaction.
- Walkies to be correctly sanitized, bagged-up and labelled with crew names before distribution – do not share radios.
- Provide covered bins for safe disposal of tissues, coverings, gloves, etc.
- Each department is responsible for keeping their own area and equipment clean.
- Set in place an appropriate way to identify any member of cast and crew who is at increased risk from contracting COVID-19 and discuss their participation with them in the context of their own approach to risk and the health advice from their own health professionals (with consent). [UK Government definitions](#) and guidance for those who are clinically vulnerable and clinically extremely vulnerable must always be followed.

TALENT ON SET

- Where social distancing of talent might not seem achievable on set due to creative or action required, you need to do all you can to minimise the risk of transmission.
- If possible, adapt the process (e.g.: use members of the same household, shoot individuals as separate plates and composite in post, use screens or barriers to separate talent from each other, avoid face-to-face interaction, keep the activity time involved as short as possible etc.) to achieve the aim within government regulations.

NB: [UK Government guidance](#) on working within social distancing state that you should do everything practical to manage transmission risks by considering whether an activity needs to continue for the business to operate, keeping the activity time involved as short as possible, using screens or barriers to separate people from each other, using back-to-back or side-to-side working whenever possible, staggering arrival and departure times, reducing the number of people each person has contact with by using fixed teams or partnering.

LOCATION SHOOTING

- Initial location research can be done remotely using location libraries.
- Social distancing must be used when visiting locations and meeting property owners/managers.
- Before confirming a location, check that the resident location owners are not vulnerable or experiencing possible COVID-19 symptoms, in line with [UK Government guidance](#).
- Try and ensure common areas and holding areas are outside wherever possible.
- Preference for one location per day, without unit moves.
- Preference for location in a 4G area, where possible, to transmit live video over the internet.

- Agree clear demarcation of responsibilities between the location department and production crew.
- Locations to be well ventilated.
- Avoid locations which will not permit minimum social distancing.
- Where possible, set up a one-way system within the location to maintain social distancing
- To protect the general public, where filming is taking place in a public area, cordon, cone or fence off with a physical barrier, and appropriate signage accordingly
- When considering the use of atmosphere/smoke effects, discuss the use requirements with the manufacturer in advance to help assess any potential COVID-19 related risk.
- Locations should share their COVID-19 preparedness plans.
- Locations to be cleaned prior to and after shooting if possible.

NB: Follow as closely as possible, COVID-19 specific [UK Government guidance](#) on decontamination in non-healthcare environments.

- Avoid, if possible, locations at a distance which would require overnight accommodation for those involved, if overnighting is required, accommodation provided should comply with relevant [UK Government guidance](#).
- Director's recce and tech recces: minimum crew only (self-driving and maintaining social distancing throughout) to include a health and safety officer where possible. The health and safety officer will do a risk assessment specific to this location and production. Masks and gloves should be available for all attendees as required c/o production.
- Location Prep: Preflight/set-build/set-dress etc. to be undertaken separately by one crew/department at a time if possible.
- Display [APA COVID-19 Health and Safety posters](#) around the set.

STUDIO SHOOTING

- All these guidelines apply to studio productions as well as locations. However, studios are likely to have their own risk assessment and COVID-19 preparedness plans which you will have to adhere to as well.
- Avoid creating crowded enclosed spaces with little airflow. Ventilate the space as often as possible.
- Ensure clear, common information-sharing and communication mechanisms between productions and the Studio, in accordance with GDPR requirements.

NB: A production should inform the studio if they have any confirmed COVID-19 cases among its cast and crew, and the studio should keep productions on site aware of any confirmed cases on site.

WARDROBE

- Complete costume fittings as much as possible during prep or off-site to avoid people congregating during production. If fittings have to be done in person, then the wardrobe department can set up clothes and supervise fitting from a safe distance. If fittings can be done at home, they should be and relayed via video-call or photos.
- Consider using existing/talent-owned wardrobe if possible.
- Wardrobe department to supply clothing in clean plastic coverings plus separate clean plastic covers for the talent's own clothes. Consider individual storage for costumes where they are limited to the individual wearing them.
- Production discuss heat treatment/washing with wardrobe department as necessary.
- Talent dress themselves wherever possible.
- Use screened-off cubicles for cast to receive their costume and dress without assistance where possible. Sanitise and ventilate changing cubicles between use.
- Avoid sharing equipment, for example maintaining a dedicated sewing machine for one user.
- Where assistance is unavoidable and wardrobe crew need to break social distancing (e.g.: for complex costumes that require fitting), you must wear face coverings, avoid face-to-face positioning during fittings where possible, remain within fixed teams (see The Shoot – General, above) and refer to the Face Coverings, Enhanced Protection and PPE section, below.

NB: It is mandatory in law for people providing a [close contact service](#) to wear a clear visor/goggles and [Type II Face Mask](#).

HAIR AND MAKE-UP

- Limit the time spent in a hair and make-up chair whenever possible. Position hair and make-up stations to allow appropriate social distancing or use Perspex screens between stations.
- HMU department to utilise disposable kit where possible. Kit should remain unique to each artist.
- Follow appropriate barbicide, sterilisation and other disinfecting processes for all equipment after each application and immediate surfaces.
- Ask performers to do own hair and make-up / touch-ups where appropriate. Request cast and supporting artists remove own make-up where possible.
- If HMU crew need to break social distancing, you must wear face coverings, limit face-to-face positioning where possible, remain within fixed teams (see The Shoot – General, above) and refer to the Face Coverings, Enhanced Protection and PPE section, below.
- Keep HMU separate from Wardrobe. Provide sufficient space for both departments to maintain two metres distance.

NB: It is mandatory in law for people providing a [close contact service](#) to wear a clear visor/goggles and [Type II Face Mask](#). That applies to Hair and Make-Up crew and anyone providing close contact services.

CREWING-UP

- It is advisable to hire a medic/nurse depending on the size of the unit.
- Do not confirm crew until they have signed the Health Declaration Form (Appendix 1).
- For health and safety personnel see the Health and Safety – General section, above.
- Require all crew to notify production if they develop symptoms prior to shoot.
- Crew aged 70 or over or classed as [clinically vulnerable](#), should be given special consideration and enhanced measures. See [UK Government guidance](#) on protecting the clinically vulnerable and definitions.
- Notify all crew of specific production safety protocol requirements prior to the shoot (e.g., mandatory face coverings unless exempt, on-site testing.)
- Provide crew with an email confirmation of their engagement for them to produce if the police question them on their travel to the location.

NB: a waiver of rights by a crew member in respect of their contracting COVID-19 is of no value - English law does not permit excluding liability for causing injury or death through negligence, so a waiver is not part of this guidance.

TECHNICAL CREW

- Boom sound where possible, or train talent to apply mics themselves if booming not feasible.
- Camera team to wear appropriate protection if breaking social distancing around camera (see Face Coverings, Enhanced Protection and PPE section below).
- Where possible, offer a clear pre-light day or time using essential crew only.
- Establish a dedicated contained area for camera equipment, with access limited to designated crew.
- Limit the handling of camera equipment to designated camera crew.

HIRED EQUIPMENT - GENERAL

- If equipment has to be shared, it must be regularly disinfected (including packing cases, handles, props, etc.) and always between users, following [UK Government guidance](#).
- Productions should consider allocating time for appropriate cleaning processes for incoming items to all departments, such as hire equipment, tools or other goods. For example:
 - > Where possible, receive deliveries 72 hours in advance of when they are required and stored in a sterile and secure location.
 - > Where not possible, implement a sanitisation procedure to receive, disinfect and hand over items.
- All equipment hire facilities should have their own risk assessments and health and safety practices including their COVID-19 regimes and should provide you with copies.

- Refer to the technician or company's cleaning protocols and make sure they work for your production.
- As equipment is usually expensive and specialised, please rely on crew or companies to clean before hire and after with instructions how to wipe down during hire period for sanitisation.

CATERING

- Adopt safer catering practices, in line with [UK Government guidance](#) on catering-related COVID-19 safety.
- Consider individual hot box delivery instead of mobile kitchen.
- Meals pre-packed to avoid contamination, no self-service facilities.
- Offer per diems to crew bringing their own meals to work, should that be necessary.
- Everyone must wash their hands before entering any catering/dining area.
- Ensure eating areas are set out to facilitate the required social distancing and are disinfected between use. Use a one-way system for navigating the eating area if possible.
- Break and mealtimes should be staggered when possible to reduce congestion
- Disposable, recyclable plates and cutlery to be provided.
- Where possible hot drinks and water stations to be available.

TRAVEL

- Crew to drive themselves to set (one person per car) and be dissuaded from using public transport where possible.

NB: It is the law that all using public transport, taxis and private hire vehicles must wear face coverings in England.

- Where required, production to organise transport using drivers or car service able to demonstrate that they can socially distance passengers, in line with [UK Government guidance](#).
- Passengers should be positioned in the rear, furthest away from the driver and separated using a clear plastic sheet.
- Alcohol gel sanitiser and wipes should be made available within the vehicle for the passenger to wipe down the seat(s) and clean their hands.

OVERSEAS PRODUCTION UNDER APA CONTRACT

Currently you are permitted to travel to and from England for the purposes of work under English law.

Anyone you or the agency bring into the UK for a commercial must comply with the Covid travel regulations. The regulations change regularly and you should check them at gov.uk or ask the APA for advice on travel regulations and restrictions before you plan a production involving travel to or from the UK.

The current general situation is that you can come to England (references are to England rather than the UK because the devolved governments have not necessarily enacted the same laws as England) if you have a PCR test for Covid (and comply with the timing and other specifications required by the Government) before travelling and self isolate for ten days on arrival.

The exception for directors, directors of photography and actors that was previously in place has been withdrawn.

Currently it is possible to reduce the period of self-isolation to five days with a negative test at the end of that period (again as per the regulations) under test and release.

However, travel from some countries is on occasions banned altogether or subject to further regulation e.g. a requirement that visitors from there stay in a hotel for ten days on arrival.

So in this situation where the regulations and restrictions are changing it is critical that you get the most up to date advice when planning your production.

If you are travelling overseas to shoot then you need to check that countries law and restrictions- are you permitted to enter the country and do you have to take any measures e.g. be tested in advance and/or on arrival or quarantine when you arrive?

On an overseas shoot you need to ensure that you understand the laws of the country you are in in respect of Covid law and regulation to ensure you comply with local laws. Your service company is your starting point but you need to interrogate their understanding and assure yourself that they understand the law and regulation on Covid in their country and will manage the production in accordance with them.

FACE COVERINGS, ENHANCED PROTECTION AND PPE

For the purposes of these guidelines the APA have split their recommendations into two categories:

- > Tier 1 is the government-recommended face coverings plus gloves.
- > Tier 2 is Tier 1 plus enhanced protective equipment.

The APA consider that face coverings (Tier 1) worn by all crew where possible, have a value in inhibiting the spread of infection and that enhanced protective equipment (Tier 2) has a value in making those attending the shoot feel safer whilst demonstrating that COVID-19 is a live threat and being treated as such. Production should therefore consider having appropriate supplies of both Tier 1 and Tier 2 items.

Face coverings are not a replacement for social distancing and regular hand washing. It is important to follow all the other government advice on coronavirus (COVID-19) including [staying safe outside your home](#).

Medical Exemptions for Face Coverings

- Individuals who are medically exempt from wearing masks must notify production at the time of confirmation and upon returning the Health Declaration Form (Appendix 1) so [reasonable adjustments](#) can be made to encourage safe working. Generally exempt individuals do not need to provide evidence they are exempt but in respect of work they can and should be required to provide such evidence so the employer can discharge its responsibilities under the Health and Safety Act. See [UK Government guidance](#) on medical exemptions.

TIER 1: Face Coverings and Gloves

Face Coverings

- The current [UK Government guidance](#) is to wear face coverings (as opposed to medical grade masks or masks classified as PPE).
- Please note that in the interests of clarifying terminology being used, face coverings are protection but are not categorised as PPE.
- Face coverings can be the following: standard surgical-type mask, home-made cloth masks, shop bought face masks, scarves, bandanas, snoods.
- [UK Government guidance](#) states that the best available scientific evidence is that, when used correctly, wearing a face covering may reduce the spread of coronavirus droplets in certain circumstances, helping to protect others.
- The APA recommend that all crew wear a face covering on set where possible.
- Apply face coverings correctly but do not forget that hand washing and social distancing remain the best ways of managing risk in the workplace.
- Face coverings should not be used as risk management for the purpose of health and safety assessments.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting a face covering on and after removing it.
- Avoid touching face or face covering, to avoid contaminating coverings with germs from hands.
- Change face coverings if become damp or touched.
- Continue to wash hands regularly, change and wash face covering daily (if the material is washable, wash in line with manufacturer's instructions, if not, dispose of carefully in usual waste).

Gloves

- Gloves are only a "second skin" and wearers need to continue to apply hygiene precautions (not touching the face).

- Change gloves for a new pair as frequently as possible.
- Dispose of gloves hygienically (covered bins etc.).

TIER 2: Enhanced Protection

- Enhanced Protection can be identified as Tier 1 items **plus** face shield or visor / disposable cover suit / respirator mask (instead of face covering).
- Those who need to break two metre distancing, and for a length of time to carry out their duties, must wear enhanced protection.
- This may depend on the level of risk involved and following an assessment of what is reasonably practicable for your company to provide.
- Departments required to wear enhanced protection depending on circumstances will include (but are not limited to): wardrobe or HMU if needing to tend to talent, medic if needing to assess symptoms and some cleaning crew.
- [UK Government guidance](#) states that the best available scientific evidence is that, when used correctly, wearing a face covering may reduce the spread of coronavirus droplets in certain circumstances, helping to protect others. However, face coverings are not an alternative for employees who wear a visor in close contact services.
- With regards to HMU & Wardrobe, Government have issued [specific guidance](#) on the use of visors for those providing “close contact services”.

NB: It is [mandatory in law](#) for people providing a close contact service to wear a clear visor/goggles and [Type II Face Mask](#).

APPENDIX 1

COVID-19 HEALTH DECLARATION FORM FOR CREW / TALENT / AGENCY / CLIENT ATTENDING SHOOT

As part of our commitment to provide a safe working environment for all on set during the pandemic, we require you to confirm in writing, by signing below, that:

- You have no cause to believe that you have COVID-19 (NHS symptom checker [here](#)).
- You have been meeting the current UK Government COVID-19 guidelines and social distancing when not at work as defined [here](#).
- As far as you are aware, you have not been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 or anyone who is showing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 within the last 14 days. Furthermore, you have not been contacted under the NHS Track and Trace system and told to self-isolate.
- You have not travelled to, nor to your knowledge had any contact with any individual travelling from any high COVID-19 risk countries (as deemed by [UK FCO](#)) in the 10 days prior to the shoot.
- You have not had a cough, or a temperature of 37.8 degrees centigrade or above in the last 10 days.
- If you develop a cough or a temperature of 37.8 degrees centigrade or above at any point before or during or within 10 days following the shoot you will immediately inform the production company engaging you.
- If you are over 70 years of age or have any pre-existing condition which would put yourself at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19, as defined by the Government [here](#), you must inform production.
- **If you are medically exempt from wearing a mask, you must notify production and disclose the reason for exemption upon returning this form and ahead of the shoot so production can make reasonable adjustments to ensure a safe working environment.**
- We may introduce testing as a further measure to mitigate risk on set. If so, you consent to a Covid test.
- You will notify us immediately should anything change as regards to the above confirmations.
- You have read, understood and agree to abide by the [COVID-19 APA Shooting Guidelines](#).
- For the purposes of GDPR you consent to our sharing and retaining your data to the extent that it is reasonably necessary for the safety of you and everybody on the production.

Please provide us with contact details of spouse / partner / home-dweller in the case of emergency on set:

Name of resident emergency contact:

Mobile of resident emergency contact:

Print your name:

Signed:

Job Title:

Date of birth:

Date:

Your contact details if we need to contact you in event that crew or talent show symptoms of COVID-19 within 10 days of our shoot:

APPENDIX 2

The COVID Supervisor must oversee and implement the mandatory and recommended workplace requirements, as set out by UK Government, including hand and respiratory hygiene. These include assessing and applying social distancing requirements to the working environment as per the production's COVID risk assessment, ensuring accessibility and inclusivity in COVID-19 safer working practices and supporting and safeguarding those defined by UK Government as most at risk of contracting COVID-19. Examples of setting supervision and enforcement processes as below:

TASKS TO BE ALLOCATED TO A MEMBER OR MEMBERS OF THE PRODUCTION TEAM OR CREW OR, DEPENDING ON THE NATURE AND SCALE OF THE PRODUCTION, BY A COVID SUPERVISOR ENGAGED TO PERFORM THEM:

- Make sure set is clean before shooting - oversee cleaners
- Ensure distance markers are on floor and remain clear throughout working day
- Make sure that hand-sanitising stations are set up correctly
- Make sure all areas have been set up correctly as needed - medic tent etc.
- Ensure that all are aware of the source of appropriate face coverings and PPE and distribute accordingly
- Make sure notices/posters are set up and visible
- Make sure toilets are set up and clean
- Coordinate temperature checking
- During shoot - keep eye on 2-metre distancing
- Check communal areas are clean and not over-crowded

Note: this is a non-exhaustive list and production companies should add additional tasks they require depending on the circumstances of the production.

APPENDIX 3

This draft notice is to enable you to comply with your obligations under the Government COVID-19 Guidelines which require you to put details of how you are managing COVID-19 risks on your website.

Important note: This is an example document and must be tailored to your business and the results of your business' COVID-19 company risk assessment.

DELETE THE RED TEXT ABOVE BEFORE POSTING ON YOUR WEBSITE.

[INSERT COMPANY LETTERHEAD]

HELPING OUR PEOPLE STAY SAFE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As we return to production after lockdown, the safety of our cast, crew and contributors is our highest priority. In order to ensure the health and safety of our people during the continued pandemic we have carefully assessed the risks of COVID-19 during production with reference to government and industry guidance.

In order to reduce those risks identified, as far as reasonably practicable, we will implement a package of control measures that will be in place during all stages of our productions.

How we are keeping people safe.

We are focusing on the following areas to ensure we can manage the risks of infection from COVID-19, carrying out specific assessments where necessary.

IN OUR OFFICES:

- **Minimising** - minimising the number of people in our offices at any time.
- **Communicating** - ensuring those who have symptoms or are ill know not to come into work and to return home immediately if they become ill at work.
- **Commuting** - considering the risks in commuting especially on public transport, introducing mitigations such as staggered start times.
- **Social Distancing** - making every effort to ensure social distancing is adhered to from space planning to signage.
- **Cleaning** - increasing the frequency of cleaning.
- **Face covering** - supporting our people in the safe wearing of face coverings on a commute and in scenarios where they choose to wear.

DURING OUR PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES:

- **Travel** - seeking to minimise travel requirements and follow social distancing principles within travel arrangements, wherever possible.
- **Location** - considering the physical capacity of space used, given the requirements of social distancing, as well as ensuring the provision of adequate hygiene facilities.
- **Work Activities** - considering the activities that people are going to need to undertake across roles in a production and if these can be adapted or changed to reduce risk.
- **Work Equipment** - managing the sharing of work equipment which is key to production from cameras and headsets to edit suites. Focusing on good hygiene and managing potential issues with touchpoints.
- **Work Patterns** - reviewing work patterns to encourage fixed teams (cohorts) of people who don't come into contact with other groups.

- **Catering and Rest Areas** - reconfiguring catering provision and planning breaks to ensure our people are as safe as possible.
 - **First Aid and Emergency services** - planning activities to reduce the risk of requiring emergency services to be called as well as advice to first aiders on COVID-19 risk.
 - **Masks, Gloves and Other PPE** - as per the APA COVID Shooting and Office Guidelines.
 - **Mental Health** - the COVID-19 risk and the response has had a potential Mental Health impact for those working on productions which should be considered. Those having to work at home may feel isolated with those on set perhaps feeling fearful and anxious of the virus.
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- **Monitoring** - compliance will be monitored and if required people will be reminded of the new COVID-19 working practices (such as social distancing).