**FILM PRODUCTION IN ESTONIA
Advice, guidelines and support addressing the COVID-19 crisis**.

On 12 March 2020, the Estonian government declared an emergency situation in Estonia until **17 May 2020**.

We have collected information from the government and the Health Board and put together these guidelines to be followed during the Covid-19 outbreak in order to, despite the current circumstances, maintain a working film industry whilst preventing the spread of the virus.

Please bear in mind, these guidelines are not intended to provide a solution for all types of productions -rather its aim is to assist in the preparation of the infection protection plan for each production.

It’s above all important to  maintain common sense and a sensible and caring attitude in all circumstances.

**Current status of the curve can be followed** [**here.**](https://www.koroonakaart.ee/en)**Official information about COVID-19 in Estonia can be seen** [**here.**](https://www.kriis.ee/en)

Production companies have to comply with the Government’s guidelines. It is imperative to enforce and provide necessary hygiene requirements and social distancing measures to ensure a safe and healthy working environment. The producer is responsible for preventing the risk of infection and they can also delegate these tasks to an infection control officer.

Each crew member has a responsibility to keep up to date with the safety measures put into effect by the producer and the current rules set by the Health Board.

* Follow the **2+2 rule**. People must keep a distance of at least 2m from others
* Reinforced hygiene measures
* Please use masks and hand sanitisers and provide them for your team
* If you suspect you might be infected, definitely stay at home until recovery (minimum 14 days)

**TRAVEL INFORMATION**
Estonia is currently only letting in Estonian citizens or residents of Estonia with a residence permit or right of residence, including holders of the so-called grey passport (stateless persons).

**The Baltic states plan to open their internal borders on May 15 for the free movement of residents of the three countries.** Those arriving in Estonia from Latvia and Lithuania no longer have to be in self-quarantine for 14 days. This excludes residents arriving from outside of the Baltic States.

During this time, temporary restrictions apply when entering Estonia and crossing the internal and external Schengen borders

Upon arrival from abroad, a 14-day self-isolation period applies, it is mandatory to avoid leaving the place of residence or permanent stay, unless extemely necessary.

Between Tallinn and Stockholm, work trips are permitted.

On **May 14**, free movement between Estonia and Finland will somewhat resume. It is allowed to come to Estonia from Finland to work, study or for family reasons.

Entry into the European Union is currently closed to third-country nationals, including the United States, until **June 15** (this date can be extended). At that time, you can only enter the EU, including Estonia, with a special permit if you have a justified and unavoidable need. The validity of the trip is assessed and special permits are issued by the Police and Border Guard Board in Estonia. If you are one or two people who inevitably need to travel now, it is worth applying for a special permit. An exemption can be applied for on the basis of the information on the PBGB's [website](https://www.politsei.ee/en/instructions/emergency-situation).

When staying and working in Estonia, it is necessary to follow all the health requirements and restrictions in force at that time.

**For more information, please see** [**here.**](https://www.visitestonia.com/en/why-estonia/coronavirus-and-travelling-to-estonia)

**PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES FOR FILM PRODUCTION**

* Appoint an infection control officer.
* Opt to have pre-production and meetings online via Zoom, Skype etc. If for some reason this is not possible then maintain social distancing and hygiene measures, keeping with the 2+2 rule.
* In pre-production evaluate the risks and make a plan to keep the crew safe. Communication is key; let everybody in the team know the precautions they must follow. Also, take into consideration the special requirements for people belonging to the risk group.
* **2+2 rule**. It is mandatory for people to maintain a distance of 2 meters from one another while working.
* The number of crew on set should be kept to a minimum. Keep in mind the location and its size whilst planning the shoot.
* Try to prepare as much as possible ahead of the shoot (e.g. set decorations, lighting) in order to avoid excess movement  of a lot of people at once.
* Maintain hygiene on set. This includes frequent cleaning of contact surfaces.
* Masks and hand sanitisers: Although masks are not mandatory at this time, production must provide masks for all people on set. Their use is strongly recommended for interior spaces, where it is difficult to consistently maintain social distancing.
* Outdoor locations are preferred to minimise the risk of spreading the disease. All interior locations must have good ventilation.
* Consider remote shoot possibilities.
* Avoid printouts (scripts, call-sheets, other documents). Maintain and distribute all production documentation digitally.
* For smaller teams, such as those working in animation, most of the production can be done in groups of two or online.

Virke - Film Producers’ Association, the Norwegian Film Workers Association, Norwegian Film Directors, the Writers Guild and the Norwegian Actors Guild have compiled comprehensive guidelines where they have specified the code of conduct for each stage of production and give particular instructions based on the respective requirements of each department. We strongly recommend reading their guide when planning your shoot. The guide is available to read [here.](https://www.virke.no/bransjer/produsentforeningen/guide/?fbclid=IwAR36EGqFQK_JX2LXIn0nAoqMp5vDMdHgkM3UIPvfjIRFGi1spnbOKnKiV2o#general-guidelines)

**European countries and film institutions are providing technical and organizational measures in order to help productions restart in safety during the global emergency. The guide is available** [**here.**](https://eufcn.com/guidelines-production-during-covid-19/?fbclid=IwAR32xDJskOM_b_Ojg4A4vmYgIfHl2sZRoHQigAZUhbAtjlcjR1_7ifB-TTc)

Stay safe and have solidarity in order to avoid contracting the virus and infecting others around you!

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact us: **commissioner@filmi.ee**

**WHY ESTONIA?**

In Estonia, personal space is a human right. An idea which might seem paradoxical when thinking about our small size. But here, there really is enough breathing room for social distancing to be the unspoken social etiquette followed in shared spaces, with or without the outbreak of the virus. The statistics back it up too, for one person, there is over 30 m2 of individual territory!

Similarly, our film industry has managed to condense, proportionately to its small-scale, *just* the right amount of professionals, for it not to feel too cramped. We are resilient and resourceful both in normal and unusual circumstances and like the majority of our population, digitally-savvy and very comfortable working with technology. So, the current restrictive measures are not so confining after all, offering the ability to, despite the virus, make thingswork and keep the cameras rolling and focused to help bring your next film project to fruition. At the same time, of course, being mindful of the safety of everyone involved and maintaining plenty of personal space.

* Competent and experienced film crews who speak fluent English and are used to working efficiently in small teams
* World-renowned professionals with international experience
* A large variety of unique locations.
* Estonia is a small country, so there is a short distance between locations which gives an opportunity to film more in less time.
* We offer a [Cash ebate](http://filmestonia.eu/index.php/film-estonia-cash-rebate/) of up to 30% and Regional Funds ([Tartu Film Fund](https://www.tartufilmfund.ee/), [Viru Film Fund](https://vff.ee/film_fund/), [Film Fund of Estonian Islands](https://minusaaremaa.ee/en/film-fund-of-estonian-islands/)).
* Wide range of quality equipment available.
* Known for its advanced digital society. Less hassle, better time-management and proficient workflow.