



EPC RECOMMENDATIONS SAFETY RULES ON THE FILM SET IN THE COVID-19 VIRUS THREAT

EPC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES ON FILM SETS IN THE COVID-19 CRISIS

We have seen recently many health and safety protocols which have been developed in EU Member States.

The EPC brings together 130 independent producers from 28 European Countries and Canada.

We believe that it is our responsibility, as producers and employers, to bring forward health and safety recommendations to address the complexities of filming on sets in the current crisis.

Our main aim is to protect cast and crew from the disease while getting in the way of the production process as little as possible.

Every shoot is different, with casts and crews large and small, filming in studios and on locations and dealing with children, intimacy and crowd scenes. Every production is its own "prototype".

This is why we have created an EPC Health and Safety Protocol with a set of mandatory rules designed both to protect and respect our teams. To these there can be added measures created specifically for the needs of particular productions.

In a pandemic situation and even where all the Health and Safety measures are followed, there is always the risk of infection on set. Everyone who agrees to work on set accepts such a risk and must be ready to cooperate for the protection of everyone on that set in the most careful observance of the following Health and Safety Rules:

Basic Recommendations:

1. **SOCIAL DISTANCING.** Everyone on set needs to respect **social distancing** as far as possible on set, with at least two metres apart strongly recommended. Specific protocols should be in place for each production..
2. **SELF-ASSESSMENT.** Everyone on set is responsible for the self-assessment of their vulnerability to the virus and must immediately report to the Designated Person any symptoms of or exposure to COVID-19 which could compromise the shoot.
3. **TEMPERATURE TESTING. Temperature Testing** needs to be in place at every entry point to the set and anyone who does not pass the test should not be allowed to enter.
4. **SANITISER AND DISINFECTING.** Hand sanitisers need to be in place at every entrance to the set, location and production office. Regular hand washing is essential. All equipment, surfaces, products and materials being used on set should be disinfected/cleaned before use..
5. **MASKS.** Specialist face masks should be worn by everyone and changed as prescribed. Only actors and extras are exempt from this and only then when in front of the camera.
6. **TRAINING.** All members of the crew and cast must undertake a **training session** on the rules to be implemented on set during the shooting as a way to ensure their compliance.
7. **DESIGNATED PERSON ON SET RESPONSIBLE.** There should be a designated person on set, responsible for upholding the health and safety measures on that set.
8. **ANTIGENIC TESTS.** Subject to the availability of antigen tests that provide rapid results within hours with confirmed reliability, their use should be considered.

EPC RECOMMENDATIONS SAFETY RULES ON THE FILM SET
IN THE COVID-19 VIRUS THREAT

Detailed Recommendations:

1. SOCIAL DISTANCING:

- As far as possible both the film set, and the production office should facilitate social distancing with 2 metres strongly advised.
- The number of people working in a film crew should be limited to the minimum necessary. All persons should exit the set when their presence is not strictly required.
- It should be forbidden for visitors or bystanders to enter the production office as well as on the set.
- The work of each of the departments should be organized in a sequential system - one department after another. The same applies to entering the set at the beginning of work and at mealtime breaks to avoid crowds.
- There should be a division into zones with specific access levels on the set. The Zero zone is around the actors, both in front of the camera and in the zone for their preparation for shooting and rest.
- Whenever possible, main actors and director as a non-replaceable persons should be partly separated from the rest of the crew by providing separate spaces of toilets, wardrobe, makeup, rest, catering, etc. People being temporarily on the set (drivers, messengers, decoration workers, etc.) should not have contact with them.
- In the case of such a need, the persons mentioned above, as well as any other persons necessary for maintaining an uninterrupted course of production, may be subject to isolation also outside the working day according to quarantine rules.
- Each cast and crew member should be encouraged to use their own vehicles. For the necessary transport organized by production, the same rules should apply as for public transport and masks must be used.
- Meals should be served in shift mode, in rooms or in tents ensuring social distancing, preferably using individual chairs. Self-service should not be possible, an individual portion should be prepared for each person on set. Meals should be served in individual containers with suitable utensils inside or individually wrapped, prepared and served by a catering employee in accordance with separately applicable regulations on food preparation. Meals and snacks during shooting should also be served as individual or brand packets. Drinks should be served in disposable containers or in environmentally friendly bottles or cans.

2. SELF-ASSESSMENT:

- All members of the film crew, as well as cast members and extras, before joining the work should be required to answer the survey questions about their circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as to inform the producer or the person designated as responsible about any changes during production. Persons belonging to a high-risk group are responsible for informing the producer of this fact.
- Every member of the crew and cast must immediately notify the producer, or the person designated by him/her/they about the occurrence of COVID-19 symptoms or contact with the person(s) with confirmed COVID-19 infection and stay at home. Violation of this obligation may result in liability in accordance with applicable regulations.
- Every person on set and in the production office should remember about compliance with the principles of social distancing (maintaining adequate distance from colleagues) and limiting physical contact (avoiding handshakes, hugs, etc.).

EPC RECOMMENDATIONS SAFETY RULES ON THE FILM SET
IN THE COVID-19 VIRUS THREAT

3. TEMPERATURE TESTING:

- Before starting work every day and after each main meal breaks, contactless temperature tests should be performed for everyone.
- People with a temperature below 37.5 degrees C should be clearly marked, for example by stickers on clothing or bracelets, changed after each measurement.
- A person without such a mark should not be on the set.

4. DISINFECTING:

- Every person on set and in production office should remember about frequent washing of hands with soap and disinfecting them.
- Sanitizers should be positioned at all entry points to the set and the production office.
- Before the crew enters the set, each set should be deep cleaned and disinfected. Action vehicles should also be deep cleaned and disinfected.
- On the film set and in action vehicles, a designated person should keep-up disinfection of props as well as heavily used set surfaces (doorknobs, handles, elevator buttons, chairs), dedicated areas (hair & make-up, wardrobe), common areas (craft service, bathrooms), and equipment where possible, in consultation with the Head of Department.
- In the make-up department, there should be provided a separate set of cosmetics and equipment for each person from the main cast. After each person's make-up, the station should be disinfected.
- In the sound making department, it is recommended that boom mics be used. In the case of wireless lavs each member of the main cast should be assigned a separate lav mic. All elements of lav mics should be disinfected before and after each use.
- Actors' costumes should be disinfected properly after each day of use.
- Production walkie-talkies should be disinfected regularly, at least twice a day. Whenever possible, these walkie-talkies should be permanently assigned to specific persons.
- Interior shooting facilities should have effective and disinfected ventilation. In the absence of built-in ventilation in the facility, such disinfected ventilation should be provided and turned on between takes.
- Used masks, gloves, disinfectant materials, etc. should be treated as hazardous waste and be disposed of in this way.

5. MASKS:

- Everyone should use masks on the set and in production rooms, changed as recommended, at least after a main meal break and at the end of the workday.
- The use of FFP2 or FFP3 masks as masks protecting not only others, but also the persons wearing them is highly recommended. However, the kind of masks used during the shooting are left to the decision of the designated person in accordance to the national recommendations on the question.
- Persons appearing in front of the camera (actors, episodes and extras) are exempt from this obligation but only when directly in front of the camera. The exceptions are situations in which putting on a mask would create the need for additional work of makeup artists.
- During blocking, actors should use clear face shields whenever possible.

EPC RECOMMENDATIONS SAFETY RULES ON THE FILM SET
IN THE COVID-19 VIRUS THREAT

6. TRAINING:

- On the basis of these HEALTH AND SAFETY RULES, the producer may prepare, in cooperation with a health and safety specialist, general as well as detailed rules applicable on the set of a specific production, which in each case should cover Basic Elements of these HEALTH AND SAFETY RULES.
- All members of the crew and cast must undertake a **training session** on the rules to be implemented on set during the shooting as a way to ensure their compliance.

7. DESIGNATED PERSON ON SET RESPONSIBLE.

- A permanent person should be appointed by the producer to carry out constant monitoring of compliance with the rules on the set and to ensure their implementation (the COVID-19 Virus Risk Prevention Officer).

8. ANTIGENIC TESTS.