

RECOMMENDED POST-COVID19 PRODUCTION STANDARDS & PRACTICES FOR WORK WITHIN OREGON

Date: May 7, 2020

with revisions thru May 10, 2022

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OVERVIEW

Getting back to work.

It goes unsaid that these are trying times for everyone, including all of us in the Oregon film industry. Yet, we are a strong and vibrant community of professionals, skilled at solving problems and highly capable of meeting the challenges presented by COVID-19. We are also a community of caring individuals known to support each other and work together with respect and grace. This document provides guidelines that will help us protect each other while also helping to reduce the spread of the virus as we get back to work.

Voluntary but essential guidelines.

The COVID-19 safety guidelines presented here are designed to provide predictability and consistency to the production process. As conditions and government policies evolve, we will continue to establish new recommended policies and practices for maintaining a safe working environment for all productions. While adherence to the guidelines is voluntary, they shall, in the absence of any negotiations which result in alternative guidelines, be presumed to be in effect on productions carried out by Oregon media industry members. It is the responsibility of the parties involved to come to an agreement prior to the commencement of production concerning situations not covered in these guidelines. It is also the responsibility of the parties to ensure state and federal law is being followed.

Following state and other restrictions.

Oregon was declared “open” on June 30, 2021 and all statewide mask mandates were removed as of March 12, 2022. In addition, the [SAG-AFTRA, IATSE, Teamsters and DGA “Return to Work” Agreement](#) was also modified on May 6 2022. Federal restrictions have also been recently relaxed. However it is our intention to create guidelines that can be applied to traditional productions that minimize the risk of transmission of COVID-19 — while allowing work to continue under *any* federal, state, local or union/guild restrictions and distancing measures that may still be in place.

For many film and television productions guidelines and restrictions may still be in place from studios, guilds and unions. Producers will need to resource these details according to the agreements and jurisdictions that apply to their productions. We have linked to many of these agreements, including the “Return to Work” Joint Guilds & Unions Protocols that apply to productions operating under a DGA, SAG-AFTRA, IATSE and/or Teamsters agreements.

How the guidelines were developed.

These guidelines were developed by the OMPA in coordination with Oregon Film, the local chapters of unions and guilds, local department heads and equipment vendors in the industry. They also reference guidelines offered by sources like [Joint Unions](#) (IATSE, DGA, SAG-AFTRA, Teamsters) and others. We have also tried to be as comprehensive as possible by incorporating the thoughts, suggestions and concerns of our Oregon cast and crew.

This document is meant to augment — not override — other union, guild, Government agency or local jurisdiction guidelines, or guidelines and regulations from insurance companies, production companies and studios & networks. These protocols should be used as guidelines to essential policies and procedures needed to protect the safety of all those who work on all media projects. They will be updated and adjusted as more guidelines are identified and new state and federal guidelines are adapted.

Assign COVID-specific Personnel.

Every production should include some form of dedicated Covid-19-specific Health & Safety Personnel that manages new production protocols required to keep crews safe in a post-pandemic world. The [IATSE-DGA-SAG-Teamsters-AMPTP](#) Protocols calls this a COVID-19 Compliance Supervisor. In addition a written and agreed to Covid-19-specific health and safety policy needs to be in place on all shoots. This is a requirement for projects utilizing the state incentive programs and by some permitting agencies.

Pay Attention to Everyone's Mental Health.

Resuming production during this time may be highly stressful and cause anxiety. The implementation of mental health resources to support the wellness of those participating in a production may be necessary.

Options could include:

- Emotional support hotline
- Telemedical health and behavioral health resources
- Mindfulness training; and
- Provision of online tools and resources.

LINKS TO FEDERAL AND STATE GUIDELINES AND RESOURCES

CDC's COVID19 Symptoms & CDC's "How COVID-19 Spreads"

CDC: [Workplace Signage](#)

Oregon Health Authority [COVID-19 Page](#).

EPA: [List of disinfectants to use against COVID-19](#)

OSHA: [Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#)

OSHA: [Oregon COVID-19 Policy Resource page](#)

OSHA: [Fact sheet related to Voluntary Respirator Use in the workplace](#)

OSHA: [Consultation Service](#)

Stay safe and be well.

Thank you for reviewing and adopting these guidelines.

KEEPING THE WORKPLACE SAFE FROM COVID

Remember, everyone will have a different pace, situation and approach to return to work. Empathy and accommodation will be needed. *Make your set an open forum for learning and sharing safety procedures. If anyone sees something that could be improved, they are encouraged to share it.*

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Communication, transparency and visitors.

- **Publish protocols:** All Covid-19 protocols used by the production should be published, distributed and agreed to by all crew, cast and other personnel.
- **Anonymous reporting:** Production/Producers should establish an anonymous reporting mechanism (via email, phone or online form) that enables all personnel to report concerns about Covid protocols or other safety issues. [Here is an example](#) and a useable resource from Local 488.
- **Assign COVID-specific Personnel.** Every production should designate dedicated Covid-19-specific Health & Safety Personnel that manages and enforces the new production protocols required to keep crews safe in a post-pandemic world. In addition a written and agreed to Covid-19-specific health and safety policy needs to be in place on all shoots. This is a requirement for projects utilizing the state incentive programs and by some permitting agencies.

If you feel sick or have symptoms.

- **At home:** If you’re feeling sick with fever, cough, muscle pain, sore throat or difficulty breathing, stay home and immediately inform your supervisor. Consider seeking immediate medical care. Before going to a doctor’s office or emergency room, call and inform them of symptoms. If the symptoms persist, please do not report to work until the Production office clears you to be job-ready.
- **On the job:** Personnel who begin feeling sick with fever, cough or difficulty breathing while at work, should immediately inform their supervisor and the Covid-19 Coordinator, and leave the premises if possible. If unable to leave, the sick person should keep wearing their face mask and find an isolated place to wait/rest until the production can arrange transportation. Immediately send home any employee with COVID-19 like symptoms (cough, fever, shortness of breath, etc.). Enact the Emergency Action Plan (EAP, see above).

ADDENDUMS *(PDFs via Embedded Links)*

Joint Guilds & Unions Protocols (DGA, SAG, IATSE, Teamsters)

[**Return to Work Agreement \(Revised 05-06-22\)**](#)