



TV Production Guidance: Living with COVID

Status

This latest version of the guidance has been produced as a result of the UK removing a number of government restrictions and as the risk from COVID-19 moves into a more dynamic phase. The UK Government has stated we must now learn to “Live with COVID”. It has been evident for some time that COVID-19 would not be eradicated, and this note aims to set out the industry position for productions moving forward. Production companies should continue monitoring the situation, making further changes as required.

Latest changes

England

Thursday 24th February 2022

- A. The legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test has been removed. Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people. After 5 days, they may choose to take a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) followed by another the next day - if both are negative, and they do not have a temperature, they can safely return to their normal routine. Those who test positive should avoid contact with anyone in an at-risk group, including if they live in the same household.
- B. No longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those under the age of 18 to test daily for 7 days and remove the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated, to self-isolate.
- C. Routine government Contact Tracing ended. Close contacts are no longer required by law to self-isolate, taking daily lateral flow tests. Instead close contacts are asked to follow sensible precautions outlined in [guidance for people with Covid-19](#) to reduce further spread.

Friday 1st April 2022

- A. The government will remove access to free lateral flow test and stop their mass screening programmes. Lateral flow tests will still be available privately
- B. The government will replace its 'Working Safely' guidance with new public health guidance setting out ongoing steps that people with Covid-19 should take to minimise contact with other people.
- C. The Covid-19 certification scheme ends although the NHS app will continue to enable individuals to prove vaccination status for international travel.

UK Devolved Nations

Each of the devolved nations have taken slightly different approaches to managing the removal of restrictions. Please see a summary of the changes in each nation: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Risk Assessing COVID-19 and Business Impact

Productions should continue to consider any COVID-19 risk to health and safety through their production risk assessments. The decision on appropriate control measures will however be for

the production to determine, based on risk assessment. Which control measures are required should be considered in the usual way based on likelihood of the risk (i.e. the prevalence of the infection amongst the local population) and the severity of the risk (government information including changes to the COVID-19 directives and wider public health guidance and also taking into account any issues around vulnerable people)..

Part of these risk-based decisions will require productions to have a good understanding of how COVID-19 will affect the individuals taking part, but also what impact COVID-19 could have on business continuity. Productions should consider the following elements in their assessment:

- Community infection rates
- Type of activity i.e. intimate contact, working within a colleague's breathing zone,
- Environment and ventilation levels
- Length of interaction and numbers involved in activity
- Good hygiene and cleaning
- Working with those are considered at a higher risk of serious illness or those individuals that could cause major production interruption

More information on conducting your risk assessment and control measures can be found on the HSE Website: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/risk/index.htm> and further information on COVID-19 control measures at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-living-with-covid-19>

The baseline expectation for productions will be to follow the government guidance. This means:

- Encouraging those who are unwell to stay away from the workplace.
- Providing facilities to ensure colleagues can maintain good personal hygiene i.e. washing hands and following the "catch it, Bin it, Kill it" guidance
- Ensuring our locations and workplaces are well ventilated.
- Consideration of social distancing as a control measure where practicable (taking into account both health and business risk/ impact) i.e. moving away from a prescriptive requirement for 2 metres at all times and moving toward giving your crew the space to chose to move away form others.
- Consideration of the use of face coverings, particularly where distancing is not practicable
- Taking extra precautions when working with those who are considered higher risk. These people should be encouraged to self-identify to production. Specific advice can be found via the NHS/government website

Productions should be mindful that the measurers above may change based on further government guidance. Further, productions should take a risk-based approach to assess if they are required to take further precautions.

Testing

As immunity levels are high, testing and isolation will play a less important role in preventing serious illness. Testing regimes should be based upon the level of risk presented to the production, accounting for the elements outlined above. This will primarily come down to the local COVID-19 situation, specific production requirements and the impact on business continuity.

Filming Internationally

Many countries will still have legal requirements in place for management of COVID-19 risk and different guidance from the UK. Productions filming internationally must comply with any local COVID-19 requirements. This could include:

- Testing and quarantine requirements, including tests to permit travel (productions should consider plans if someone tests positive and becomes stuck in country due to local quarantine/isolation requirements)
- Proof of vaccination status
- Social distancing
- Wearing face coverings
- Completion of Self-Declaration and passenger location forms

Productions should check the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office for further details on local travel requirements: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>