

ZAC and ZAC /COVID-19 Shoot/Production Guidelines

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SARS-CoV-2 is the official name of the virus that causes the disease named COVID-19. The two phrases have become somewhat interchangeable and we use the generic term 'COVID' below to cover both.

These guidelines have been created by the Association of Photographers (AOP) and have been designed for ZAC and ZAC Photography which are adapted from existing APA COVID-19 production guidelines to be more pertinent to stills photography production (including moving image). They have been developed by a cross-section of the AOP leadership, membership and insurers.

The purpose of these guidelines is to enable all those responsible for producing stills and moving image shoots to take reasonable and practical steps to safeguard the health and safety of everyone attending a shoot in relation to COVID-19 and to meet their obligations to do so under the Health and Safety at Work Act, and Government guidelines & regulations on COVID-19, including The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Scotland/England) Regulations 2020 (expiring 26 Sept 2020).

ZAC and ZAC have a responsibility which they can meet by following these guidelines. In addition, any other person outside of ZAC and ZAC has their own responsibilities in respect of COVID-19. They too can meet those by complying with these guidelines. They will be updated regularly in response to feedback on how they work in practice, new legislation and regulation, and the potential availability of practical, accurate on-set COVID-19 testing.

- 1. GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES, MEDICAL INFORMATION, KEY PRINCIPLES**
- 2. The Association of Photographers (AOP) BEST PRACTICES**
- 3. COVID-19 HEALTH STATEMENT (to be shown to, or read to, all shoot attendees)**

1.1 GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES & CONTEXT

The Government says: (<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>)

- continue to work from home if you can
- wear a face-covering in certain designated spaces ([full list here](#))
- limit close contact with other people
- keep your distance if you go out (2 metres apart where possible, but at least 1m)
- wash your hands regularly

The Government has also said to carry on with business (but work at home where possible - but commercial photography cannot, on the whole, be produced at home), while making clear that 2m-distancing should be followed in the workplace wherever possible.

Additionally, the Government have stated:

"With the exception of organisations covered above [note: this refers to pubs, restaurants, etc. in the section of closing certain businesses and venues], the government has not required any other business to close - indeed it is important for business to carry on."

(Source: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19>)

Lastly, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), a governmental organisation state:

"Keep your business open. With the exception of some non-essential shops and public venues, we are not asking any other business to close - indeed it is important for business to carry on."

(Source: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/social-distancing-coronavirus.htm>)

1.2 MEDICAL INFORMATION

Some medical context on SARS-Cov-2/COVID-19 (also read the WHO's dedicated FAQ):

- The time between exposure to COVID-19 and the moment when symptoms start is commonly around five to six days but can range from one to 14 days.
- SARS-CoV-2 is transmitted from an infected person's respiratory secretions or aerosolised droplets (coughs/sneezes) reaching the nose, eyes or mouth of another.
- The most common symptoms are fever, coughing, sneezing and shortness of breath. Less common symptoms are diarrhoea and abdominal pain.
- 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.
- The virus that causes COVID-19 can also survive on a variety of surfaces for different timespans and be transmitted to another individual from contact with them.

1.3 KEY PRINCIPLES

The purpose of (social) 2m-distancing and PPE is to break the transmission cycle of the virus and reduce the risk of infection. We should operate on the basis that we could all be potential 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 2m-distancing wherever possible, but at the very least 1m.
- Wash your hands for 20 secs with soap and warm or hot water or use hand sanitiser for at least 30 seconds regularly. Alcohol-based sanitisers should contain at least 60%alcohol.
- Cough and sneeze in the crook of the arm or into a tissue and bin immediately.
- Report COVID-19 symptoms to your employer/production manager.
- Continue to work from home wherever practicably possible.

2. AOP BEST PRACTICES

These are guidelines as to how to structure ZAC and ZAC's production, over and above Government guidelines and, again, they will be constantly reviewed and updated wherever and whenever necessary.

NOTE: Both pre-production and production are likely to take longer to enable compliance as a result.

The number of people on location should be kept to a minimum. Only people who are **absolutely required** to be present at the shoot should attend. Furthermore, every person who will be attending the shoot - because it is necessary that they do so - shall be made aware of the COVID-19 Health Statement at the end of these guidelines.

We have organised our best practices as follows:

2.1 - Pre-production

2.2 - The shoot

2.3 - Office

2.4 - Transport

2.5 - Location shooting

2.6 - Health and Safety

2.7 - PPE and Sanitisation

2.1 PRE-PRODUCTION (Including Agency & Client-side considerations)

- (a) (Creative concepts and briefs should ideally already bear in mind current Government level restrictions). ZAC and ZAC however, are encouraged to advise clients as to how to set a brief which can be shot in compliance with these guidelines in order for safe production to take place.
- (b) Get approval from agency/client as early as possible. Finalise as many creative decisions as possible no later than the pre-production meeting (PPM) in order to reduce last-minute changes on shoot days, and to plan for all health requirements & sanitary accommodations.
- (c) Encourage early confirmation of projects to allow for additional prep time.
- (d) Encourage and explain the need to the agency/client of the importance of sticking to scheduled confirmation dates.
- (e) Where possible all pre-production processes should be managed remotely from home. This includes treatments, budgeting, production meetings, meetings with the agency and PPMs.
- (f) Distribute the AOP guidelines to all involved in the production.

2.2 THE SHOOT

- (a) Stagger call times where possible to avoid congestion.
- (b) Keep the unit as small as possible and minimise the number of crew/ agency/client/talent on set at any one time.
- (c) Wash and thoroughly dry hands on arrival and during the day at regular intervals. Alcohol-based (60% minimum) sanitisers should be easily accessible throughout the set/location as well as soap and water provided wherever possible.
- (d) Consider a video-conferencing facility relaying video remotely to agency/client.
- (e) Consider increasing video monitoring on set to avoid clusters of people.
- (f) All crew to adhere to any safety guidelines or notices given on the day.
- (g) Consider any space markers where possible.
- (h) Walkie-talkies/radios to be correctly sanitised, bagged-up and labelled with crew names before distribution - do not share equipment.
- (i) Wear face-coverings as much as possible indoors.

2.3 OFFICE

Avoid printing and paper distribution except for clear safety posters on set.

NOTE: COVID-19 can last 24 hours on cardboard, and longer on other surfaces. (Source: <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2004973>)

2.4 TRANSPORT

- (a) ZAC and ZAC will use their own transport and be dissuaded from using public transport where possible.
- (b) Where required, production to organise transport using drivers' local service & be able to demonstrate that they can socially distance passengers.

2.5 LOCATION SHOOTING

- (a) 2m-distancing where possible, but at least 1m, must be used when visiting locations and meeting property owners/managers.
- (b) Note that councils are unlikely to grant any filming/location permits at the moment.
- (c) Try and ensure common areas and holding areas are outside wherever possible.
- (d) Prefer/prioritise for one location, without unit moves, per day.
- (e) Prefer/prioritise for location in a 4G area, where possible, to transmit live video over the internet, if WiFi unavailable.
- (f) Locations are to be well-ventilated. Consider bringing additional equipment to change (not recycle) the air regularly if this is not the case.
- (g) Avoid the use of vapours, steam and hazers (including but not limited to dry ice, oil, mists or glycol) as they are likely to keep airborne infections in the atmosphere longer.
- (h) Where possible, all locations required to share their own COVID-19 preparedness plans.
- (i) We recommend prior/post shoot that all areas to be photographed by ZAC and ZAC are cleaned and sanitised to Government guidelines by client.
- (j) All reces to involve minimum crew only (self-driving and maintaining 2m-distancing throughout). Masks and gloves available for all attendees as required c/o production.

2.6 HIRED EQUIPMENT

- (a) SARS-CoV-2 (the virus) can (in certain circumstances) survive up to 72 hours on plastic and steel, so try to work out advance collection/delivery/quarantine of kit/materials where possible. If that is not possible, apply a thorough sanitation process.
- (b) All equipment hire facilities should have their own risk assessments and health and safety practices and should provide you with a copy.

- (c) Refer to the technician or company's cleaning protocols and make sure they work for your own production.
- (d) As equipment is usually expensive and specialised, please rely on crew or companies to clean before and after hire with instructions on how to wipe down during hire period for sanitation.
- (e) Try and only use suppliers with their own clear COVID protocols.

2.7 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- (a) Full risk assessment, on a job-by-job basis, will be carried out by production during prep and tech recces.
- (b) Consider having a health and safety officer on shoot days for larger-scale shoots.
- (c) Individuals on the shoot should be contacted subsequently by shoot producer in the event that fellow workers/talent are found to have contracted COVID-19 within the two weeks following the shoot.
- (d) All workers, if they have any symptoms associated with COVID-19 or in advance of work, should report to production and remain in quarantine at home, without going to their workplace.
- (e) 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.

2.8 PPE AND SANITISATION

- (a) Production to have supplies of PPE for those needing to wear it:
 - (i) Tier 1 - basic PPE: masks and gloves

Note that wearing gloves needs to be managed correctly - wear for single use activities and remove, also in the event that masks become mandatory, the AOP will update according to government guidelines.
 - (ii) Tier 2 - enhanced PPE: mask/respirator (N99/P3/FFP3), visor and gloves. Those who need to break 2m-distancing and for a length of time to carry out their duties may need to wear enhanced PPE. Crew likely to be required to wear enhanced PPE depending on circumstances will include (but are not limited to): Camera crew if gathering around camera; styling if needing to tend to talent; HMU if needing to work on talent; medic if needing to assess symptoms.

NOTE: remember the correct procedure for donning and removal of PPE: (1) Wash and dry hands thoroughly, (2) Put on mask, (3) Put on gloves. (4) Removal is a reversal of 1,2 and 3, i.e., remove gloves first.
- (b) A separate covered bin should be provided for safe and immediate disposal of tissues and PPE.

- (c) Production must have sufficient PPE of both tiers for all crew, and should bear in mind procurement timings and supplier credibility in respect of safety standards and environmental issues, and without knowingly compromising supplies to frontline care workers.
- (d) Clearly indicated and visible spacious hygiene stations for hand-washing, with plentiful supply of alcohol-based (60% min) hand sanitiser and wipes
- (e) Each individual is responsible for keeping their own area and equipment clean.

3. SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 HEALTH STATEMENT TO BE READ BY, OR TO, ALL SHOOT ATTENDEES

As part of our commitment to provide a safe working environment for all on set during the unprecedented, fast-changing COVID-19 situation, we need to know that you have listened to or read, and understood the following statements as part of your agreement with the production company engaging you, in that:

1. You have no cause to believe that you have COVID-19 (an NHS symptom-checker can be found here) or may have been exposed to SARS-Cov-2/COVID-19.
2. You have been meeting the Government COVID-19 guidelines and 2m-distancing when not at work as defined here.
3. 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.
4. 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 14 days prior to the shoot.
5. You have not had a cough, or a temperature of 38 degrees centigrade or above in the last 14 days.
6. If you develop a cough or a temperature of 38 degrees centigrade or above at any point before or during or within 14 days following the shoot you will immediately inform the photographer/production company engaging you.
7. 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.
8. You will notify production immediately should anything change as regards to the above confirmations.
9. You have either heard or read and understood and agree to abide by the COVID-19 AOP Shoot/Production Guidelines.

End.