

creative  
england

# Filming in England

Local Authority Guide  
to managing filming  
safely during Covid-19

# Section 1:

## The science bit

To manage it, you need to understand it. Watch Creative England's [Local Authority Filming Safety Seminar](#) in partnership with [First Option](#) and their microbiologist who explains Covid-19 and how to control transmission and manage risk.

### What is it?

It's a social virus



Droplet, not airborne



It's mild so spreads more easily

Flu is bad. This is far worse

It's not gone anywhere



### Managing Transmission

Avoid close contact



Hands - Soap and water kills it

Space - Stay 2 metres apart

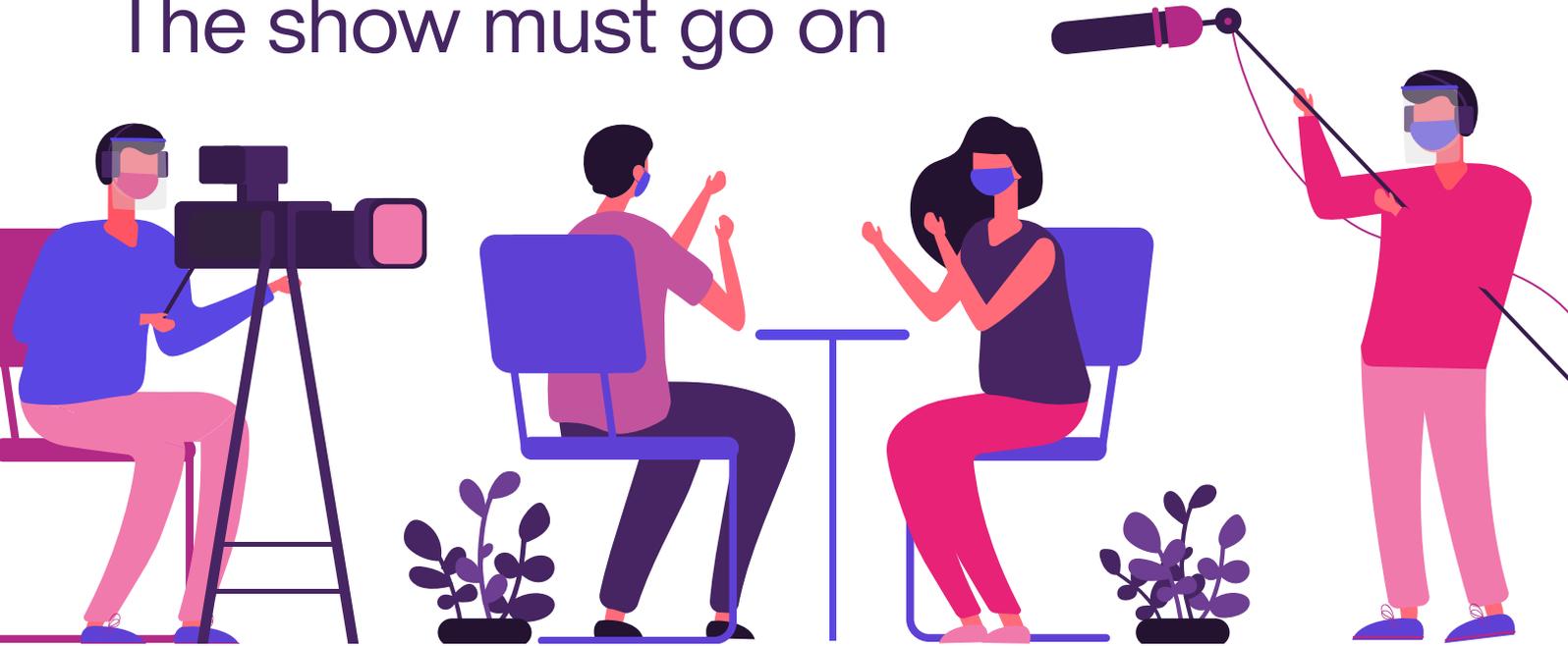
Face - Wear a face covering



Follow government & NHS guidelines

# Section 2:

## The show must go on



The UK Film & TV industry supports more than 180,000 jobs and contributes more than £12 billion annually to the economy and has been significantly impacted by Covid-19. Here is what you need to know:

**March** Covid-19 brought the UK Film & TV industry to a standstill, when the country went into lockdown on March 23 all physical production halted, billions of pounds worth of work was frozen and thousands of freelancers didn't have any work.

**June** On 1 June, the UK government & PHE gave endorsement to the British Film Commission's *Working Safely During Covid-19 in Film and High-end TV Drama Production*, signalling a green light for production activity to resume. Produced as a recovery initiative of the BFI Screen Sector Covid-19 Task Force, it is possibly the most comprehensive and extensively consulted production guidance in the world.

**July** The UK's domestic Film & TV sector welcomed announcement of a £500 million insurance fund for losses due to Covid-19. For lower budget productions this was a huge stumbling block in recovery. The fund has protected tens of thousands of jobs and has kick started the sector's recovery, to allow its important contribution to the UK economy.

**October/November** UK Government confirms irrespective of risk level or local/national restrictions, COVID-secure film & TV production, in studios and on location, is permissible across the UK. This exemption covers all aspects of the production process, including scouting and recce, travelling and staying in a hotel for work purposes and that filming can continue to take place in the premises of businesses that are closed to the public due to the new Health Protection Regulations.

**Future Outlook** The BFI's latest Q3 statistics show production investment has bounced back after Q2's hiatus. As the COVID pandemic continues, and people's entertainment habits are changed, the need for fresh content will only continue to rocket. If we can harness the content boom, the film & TV sector can become one of the UK's economic and cultural success stories for years to come.

# Section 3:

## Local Authority 10-step guide



### 1. Government Advice & Local/National Restrictions

Check gov.uk and local authority websites for up-to-date information on local restrictions, these might be different in neighbouring boroughs.

Remember, social restrictions - such as Rule-of-Six does - do not apply to workplace production activity operating within appropriate industry guidelines in Covid-secure settings.

### 2. Planning & Lead Times

Planning is vital. Productions need to allow for additional Covid-19 measures and additional liaison required with local authorities, residents, and businesses. Be upfront and clear to productions on any longer lead times needed for you to approve filming requests.



### 3. Production Guidance

Within your application process, request confirmation of lead Covid-19 contact details on the production and which Covid-19 guidance the production is basing their protocols on as part of your application process:

- [The BFC COVID 19 Code of Practice](#)
- [The UK Broadcasters TV Production COVID 19 Guidance](#)
- [The APA COVID 19 Guidelines](#)

### 4. Risk Assessments

Ensure completed risk assessments are location specific and include measures on how public will be protected, including how cast and crew will remain over 2 metres away from public.



### 5. Recces

Production guidance states recce crew numbers must be reduced to an absolute minimum & take place virtually where possible. Remember, rule-of-six does not apply to Covid-secure workplace activity. Recces have been successfully taking place observing social distancing and wearing hi vis jackets is also beneficial.



## 6. Space

Cast and crew to be over 2 metres away from other people (public, residents, businesses) and to comply with social distancing guidelines. Productions to calculate space requirements correctly to maintain this & agree with Local Authority physically defined space of production's working area.

## 7. Avoiding Last Minute Changes

Work together with the production to avoid of any last-minute changes to the shoot that cause an alteration of the risks associated with the agreed Risk Assessment. Show flexibility by putting limits around what the scope of changes can be, accepting that nature of production is changeable.



## 8. Residents / Business

We encourage productions to engage with Local Authorities and their communities as much as possible prior to shooting. Communication is key in managing perception & confidence around filming in public spaces. Signage supports this, to highlight COVID-19 safety precautions and the request for public to keep 2 metres away. View our [Filming with Confidence during Covid-19](#) advice document for more tips.

## 9. Code of Practice Annex

Creative England has provided all Local Authorities with Code of Practice Annex to ensure that location filming complies with Government COVID-19 safety guidance and that filming activity does not increase the risk of spreading COVID-19 in the public domain. This is an asset for your authority to re-purpose that is being used by local authorities and film offices across the country and can be accessed [here](#).



## 10. Support for Local Authorities

Creative England are here to support you. Join our free Filming in England Partnership to receive the tools, advice and support to ensure your authority enjoys the profile, job opportunities and economic benefits that filming brings. [Sign up today](#).

# Covid-19 Filming Code of Practice Action List

## An asset for Local Authority's Filming Application Process

The Code of Practice Annex is an asset for your authority to re-purpose for use as part of your filming application process. It ensures that location filming complies with Government Covid-19 safety guidance and that filming activity does not increase the risk of spreading Covid-19 in the public domain.

[Download](#) or email [production@creativeengland.co.uk](mailto:production@creativeengland.co.uk) to request a co-badged version

