

L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES CRÉATEURS PROFESSIONNELS DE L'IMAGE

# Covid-19: Health and Safety Guidelines for Commercial Photographers

The impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic have changed the way that we work. What are the responsibilities of photographers in facilitating a safe work environment?

CAPIC recognizes that every photographer runs a unique business and will face their own individual challenges while working throughout the pandemic. Some photographers work by themselves, or with small teams, and can easily communicate remotely with their clients. Others work with a large crew and are accustomed to sharing a set with many other people. The larger the production, the higher the risk. The higher the risk, the more complicated the implementation of health and safety measures becomes.

The following recommendations are guidelines that photographers should adapt to fit their own respective business. All photographers following these guidelines must ensure that they are also abiding by all local health and safety directions. Public Health authorities set the minimum standards and regulations and these must be adhered to by everyone.

Provincial Ministries of Labour require that employers have a comprehensive health and safety plan in place for Covid-19. Photographers must establish their own policies that clearly outline the measures they are implementing to mitigate the spread of Covid-19. This policy must be made available to clients, crew, and other workers. It is recommended that this policy be posted in the work environment. In accordance with Provincial guidelines, this policy should cover how the workplace will operate, including, but not limited to:

- Screening measures
- Cleaning and sanitation of the workplace
- Physical distancing
- How work will be scheduled

All persons present at the shoot must be made aware of the measures that are being taken by the photographer to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus. Individuals on set must understand what their roles are in implementing these measures and the importance of complying with them. A waiver for clients, crew, and models can serve as an additional method to communicate and educate on risk of exposure to the virus.

CAPIC has created a template for a standard policy and several templates of waivers that you can download here. Please note that these are templates only and that they must be adapted to suit your particular production. It is your responsibility to ensure that they are adjusted to comply with local public health restrictions in your jurisdiction.

## Quarantine Protocols

- There should be no disincentive for any employees and independent contractors to stay home if they are sick or isolating. Photographers should review their agreements with all employees to ensure they align with local public health guidance.
- Ensure that you have a back-up plan in place should an individual not be able to work the day of the shoot because they are ill or are isolating.
- If photographers are made aware of any persons present during the shoot becoming symptomatic within 48 hours, all other individuals who were on set on the same day should be informed immediately.
- A complete contact list of all individuals present on set, the times they were present, and their roles, must be maintained to facilitate contact tracing in the event of a positive case. This contact sheet should include names, phone numbers, and addresses. Public Health may request records from up to two-weeks prior to an individual becoming ill.
- All contracts with clients and crew must include a cancellation and postponement policy related directly to Covid-19 health and safety. Production could be postponed or cancelled entirely for uncontrollable reasons related to the pandemic and associated restrictions. Ensure that you outline this risk and have a contingency plan in place.

## **Preventing Transmission**

#### Time Spent on Set

• All shoots should be precisely scheduled ahead of time with healthy and safety measures in mind.

• All shoots should be done for the shortest amount of time possible. Longer times spent in enclosed spaces increases the risk of virus transmission. Shorter shoot times will also allow for additional time to be allocated to cleaning and disinfecting. Additional measures will take extra time and this needs to be taken into consideration. Schedule accordingly.

#### Scheduling

- Scheduling needs to accommodate for additional cleaning and disinfecting measures. Other safety measures will also take more time, so ensure to plan accordingly for this.
- It is recommended that the fewest people possible are on set at any given time. If possible, stagger scheduling times to reduce the amount of individuals working.
- People should arrive and leave at separate times to avoid coming into close contact. Areas such as doorways make physical distancing difficult.

#### Payment

• All payments must be contactless.

#### Working Remotely

The concept of working remotely whenever possible is important in order to reduce the amount of people required on set. Anything that can be done remotely should be. This includes pre-production meetings, live-streaming of shoots for clients, image review, and post-production. Whenever possible, the shoot should also be live-streamed to art and creative directors. All productions should be limited to only essential staff on set. No visitors should be permitted.

#### Screening

- Schedule a remote screening of all individuals who will be on set 24 hours prior to the shoot. This is your opportunity to screen everyone ahead of time and make yourself aware of anyone who may not be able to work because they are sick, caring for someone who is sick, or isolating.
  - The remote screening should include questions on physical symptoms, travel history, and whether or not individuals have come into close contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19
  - It is recommended that you direct people to use the Covid-19 online selfassessment tool in your province.

- On the day of the shoot, everyone must be screened for symptoms prior to entering the studio and/or set. Symptoms may include:
  - Fever (temperature checks may be appropriate for large scale productions)
  - Runny nose
  - Cough
  - Sore throat
  - Difficulty breathing
- Anyone with symptoms will not be permitted to enter and will be encouraged to return home and contact their local public health unit for further directives on isolating.
- Anyone who has had close contact within the previous 7 days with an individual that has tested positive for Covid-19 should not be permitted on set (please note that most individuals is this position will have already been contacted by public health and will already be self-isolating at home).
- Anyone who has travelled internationally within the previous 14-days should not be permitted on set.

# Shooting On Set

As the photographer, you are in control of your set and are responsible for ensuring that appropriate health and safety measures are in place.

## Hygiene

- Frequent handwashing is recommended.
  - Water and soap and/or a 60% hydroalcoholic solution must be available for handwashing on set at all times.
  - Handwashing and sanitizing must be easily accessible to everyone on set
- Avoid touching your face at all times
- Cough and sneeze into your sleeve
- Consider your phone as another hand and clean it just as frequently. This mindset should be applied to any other device that you handle constantly.
- Hair and beards should be freshly washed. Long hair should be tied back.

## Physical Distancing

• The most effective method to prevent transmission is by ensuring all individuals practice physical distancing while on set. The recommended minimum physical distance from public health authorities is 2 meters.

- Physical distance must be maintained between all individuals on set whenever possible. This applies to all persons, including talent.
  - Anticipate that the concept of the shoot may need modification in order to allow for health and safety measures to be implemented. For example, the client may initially request that talent be shot in close proximity to one another. These discussions must be included in pre-production meetings.
- Exceptions to physical distancing measures can only be made for those persons who are from the same shared household. If someone does not live under the same roof as another, they must keep a minimum of 2 meters distance.
- Physical contact must be avoided whenever possible.
- If physical distancing is absolutely not possible, appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn and made available to all people working on set.
- Physical distancing measures must be taken into account when organizing the layout of the set. Consider where individuals will be working and in what roles.
   Plan for any movement that will need to happen on set and control this movement by establishing one way traffic flows where possible. Doorways are areas that will need special consideration as there is a higher risk of creating a bottleneck.

## Shared spaces

- When possible, individuals present on set should be restricted to separate areas. The layout of the space needs to be planned for this separation. Consider using space markers to clearly designate specific areas. For example, tape on the floor or physical barriers can be used to section off designated areas.
- The movement of people on set must be controlled whenever possible.
   Establishing a one way flow of traffic will reduce the risk of physical distancing measures not being respected. This can be done with arrows taped to the floor or clearly posted signs.
- Signs should be posted in all shared spaces to remind individuals of physical distancing and hygiene practices. These are new measures and it helps to have visible reminders. CAPIC has created signs that you can download and print to use for your shoots.
- Hair and Makeup
  - Hair and makeup work stations must be minimum of 2 meters apart.
     Surfaces in stations should be reserved for essential tools only. Food, drink, and other items unrelated to the work of the stylists and artists should be banned.

• PPE should be used when setting up the work stations to avoid contamination.

#### Bathrooms

 Bathrooms must be thoroughly cleaned after every use and disinfected daily. Any surface touched must be wiped down (taps, handles, soap dispenser, etc). Ensure that disinfectant wipes or other cleaning products are available for people to use in the bathroom.

## • Kitchens and Food

- If possible, kitchens should not be used during the shoot. These are spaces with many touch spots and are high risk. If a kitchen is to be used, it should be only by a single designated person and needs to be cleaned thoroughly after every use.
- It is recommended that all food and drink available on set should be packaged. Food and drink should not be shared in any way and packages must be disposed of safely in designated waste containers, similar to PPE.
- Consider having all individuals bring their own food and drink to reduce the risk of any contamination. People should bring their own water bottles already filled. Water bottles should not be filled on set.

#### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- PPE should be worn when possible. This is of the utmost importance when adequate physical distancing is difficult to maintain and when individuals are expected to be in the same enclosed space for lengthy amounts of time. Examples of PPE are:
  - o Masks
  - Gloves
  - Face shields
  - Barriers in place where appropriate or possible
- It is recommended that you encourage workers to all bring their own individual PPE to set. This ensures that masks and gloves will fit well.
- As the employer, the photographer is responsible for the health and safety of the workers on set. You must supply adequate PPE (masks and gloves), for all crew and clients scheduled to be on set should they not have any of their own, with the exception of Hair and Makeup.
  - Hair and Makeup have specialized needs and their work puts them at a higher risk. As such, they will be required to bring their own PPE to the shoot to ensure that it is well-fitted and tailored to their specific needs.

- PPE is an additional and necessary health and safety expense to be included in the total cost of production for the client.
- Proper disposal of used PPE
  - Used PPE should be disposed of in designated waste receptacles.
  - These waste bins should be easily accessible to ensure that used masks and gloves can be disposed of quickly when needed.
  - Waste containers should be ready with a sealable bag inside and should not have a lid that needs to be touched to be opened. The bag should be sealed and be removed after every shoot.
  - It is essential that used PPE is disposed of safely. Once worn, PPE should be treated as contaminated.
    - Masks should be worn only once and by a single person. Before removing a mask you should first wash your hands, remove it by the straps, dispose of it, and then wash your hands once more. In the case of reusable masks, follow the same steps, but place the used mask in a sealable bag until it can be laundered.
    - Gloves should be worn only once and by a single person. Consider the outside of the gloves as hands that can't be washed. When removing gloves ensure that you do not touch the outsides of them, dispose of them in appropriate containers, and wash your hands.
    - Face shields should be worn only once and by a single person. They are reusable and can be cleaned and disinfected. Before removal ensure to wash your hands, place the used face shield into a sealable bag until it is time for it to be cleaned, and wash your hands once more.

## Cleaning and Sanitation

- You should plan to allocate more time to cleaning and disinfecting. Ensure that all cleaning products are approved by Health Canada and are safe to use.
- Avoid sweeping and dusting as this can stir up contaminating materials into the air. You should use cleaning wipes and mops instead.
- Workspace
  - The entire set/studio must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before and after every shoot. This includes all workstations and changing rooms.
  - High contact areas such as interior and exterior door handles, lightswitches, and surfaces such as tables, counters, and chairs, must be cleaned frequently throughout the duration of the shoot.

- If possible, avoid using props in the shoot. If props are used, they must be cleaned frequently.
- Remove any unnecessary objects from the environment. Only essential items should be on set and each item should only be handled by a single person. For example, everyone has their own pen. Pay close attention to commonly shared objects and remove them if they are not necessary. Remember that everything that is touched will need to be cleaned.

## Equipment

- All equipment and gear must be cleaned. Use alcohol wipes and soap when possible, taking caution to not damage your gear.
- Details on what crew will be assigned what equipment must be clearly established in the remote pre-production meetings. It is essential that all persons understand their roles and what equipment they can handle ahead of the shoot. This will avoid any confusion on set, as well as decrease any risk of cross-contamination and transmission.
- Equipment must not be shared whenever possible. This may mean additional equipment is required on set.
- If it is not possible to have separate equipment for crew, then all shared equipment must be cleaned and disinfected following each and every single point of contact. Ensure that disinfectant wipes or cleaning products are readily available to facilitate this.
- It is recommended to store gear separately to avoid having heavy cases that will require more than one person to carry them. This will require more cases than usual. If this is not possible, PPE must be worn when multiple people are carrying cases as physical distancing will be impossible to maintain. In addition, disinfectant wipes must be used to clean the cases after every point of contact.

# **Shooting On Location**

- When choosing a location, ensure that it is large enough to accommodate physical distancing measures. Confirm that other health and safety standards can also be maintained before choosing a location. It is recommended that locations be scouted by a single person, if possible.
- Shoot as much as possible outdoors.
- Ensure that physical distancing measures are followed at all times during the shoot.

- Separate transportation to and from the set needs to be planned for. If possible, do not share a vehicle with others from outside of your immediate household.
- Minimise the time spent on set. The shorter the length of time shooting, the lower the risk of transmission.

## Clients, Crew, and Models

You should anticipate that other individuals on set will come with their own protocols and guidelines for working safely during the shoot. All parties involved should meet remotely prior to the shoot to discuss their respective policies. This will allow for you to mitigate any foreseeable issues and clearly establish the responsibilities of all persons in implementing health and safety measures on the day of the shoot.

Certain members of the crew, such as makeup artists and hair stylists, will be working in the highest risk positions as physical distancing becomes nearly impossible. Specific PPE such as masks, gloves, and face shields will need to be used. Prepare for them to also have the strictest protocols and understand that respecting and accommodating these guidelines is crucial for the health and safety of all.

Projects can vary greatly in scale and productions will require different sizes of crews based on need. Regardless of the size of the production, the photographer is the one who is overall responsible for the health and safety of all on set.

It is recommended that a single individual be assigned the role of Covid-19 Protocol Officer. This individual will be responsible for the planning, scheduling, and executing the enhanced Covid-19 health and safety measures for any given shoot. These additional measures will be extensive and it is essential that all protocols are followed. This role should be recorded as an additional health and safety expense.

Small Projects – Photographer Only		
Crew Title	General Roles & Duties	COVID-19 Responsibilities
Photographer	Controls and directs the	Overall responsibility for the health and safety of
Only	creative process that takes	everyone on set
	place in front of the lens, on	$\cdot$ Must wear a mask when working with people
	camera activities, and lighting	$\cdot$ Must maintain the 2 meter physical distancing
	in consultation with the client's	rule when working with anyone
	creative team	$\cdot$ Ensure that all cleaning protocols are followed
	Assumes the role of Covid-19	before and after the shoot
	Protocol Officer	$\cdot$ Is the only person to set up and touch the
		camera and lenses during the shoot
		$\cdot$ Subject is not permitted to come close to the
		camera or computer (if used). Images can be
		reviewed only if a monitor is set up 2 meters
		from the computer.
		$\cdot$ Due to lack of crew, the photographer will take
		on the additional role of Covid-19 Protocol
		Officer

Small Shoot – Minimal Crew		
Crew Title	General Roles & Duties	COVID-19 Responsibilities
Photographer	Controls and directs the	Overall responsibility for the health and safety of
	creative process that takes	everyone on set
	place in front of the lens, on	$\cdot$ Must wear a mask when working with people
	camera activities, and lighting	$\cdot$ Must maintain the 2 meter physical distancing
	in consultation with the client's	rule when working with anyone
	creative team	$\cdot$ Ensure that all cleaning protocols are followed
	The photographer on small	before and after the shoot
	shoots will be the only one to	$\cdot$ Is the only person to set up and touch the
	set up and handle camera	camera and lenses during the shoot
	gear.	$\cdot$ Subject is not permitted to come close to the
		camera or computer (if used). Images can be
		reviewed only if a monitor is set up 2 meters
		from the computer.
lst Assistant	Sets up lighting and other gear	• Ensure that all camera gear is clean and
Camera	under the photographer's	disinfected in advance of the shoot
	direction, monitor lights,	• Must wear PPE (mask)
	anticipate problems, provide	$\cdot$ Camera gear on smaller shoots will need to be

	suggestions, and make sure	stored separately from other gear to ensure
	that the photographer can	that it is only handled by the photographer on
	concentrate on the task at	set.
	hand without distraction.	$\cdot$ All gear to be cleaned and disinfected upon
		completion of shoot.
Digitech	Computer imaging technician.	Only person allowed to setup, touch and operate
	Responsible for setup of	computer gear
	workstation, organizes file	$\cdot$ All gear must be disinfected on setup
	structure and naming, backup	$\cdot$ Must wear mask at all times
	drives, external viewing	<ul> <li>Figure logistics for additional handsfree</li> </ul>
	monitors.	wireless or wired monitors set up to be at
	During shoot: monitoring for	minimum a 2 meter distance from computer
	exposure, focus and technical	workstation and other people.
	needs. Ensures that clients	$\cdot$ Only 1 person per monitor is permitted within
	have a monitor offset to	the 2 meter zone
	watch progress of the shoot.	$\cdot$ At completion of shoot, all gear, drives, and
		memory cards are to be disinfected.
Covid-19 Protocol	A protocol officer is required	$\cdot$ Responsible for planning, assigning, and
Officer	for the planning, scheduling,	communicating all enhanced safety measures
	and execution of Covid-19	on set
	health and safety protocols.	$\cdot$ Ensure that all Covid-19 measures and
	Expenses for this crew	protocols are adhered to on set including
	member should be billed on a	physical distancing, appropriate PPE, and
	Covid-19 safety line in	cleaning.
	estimates.	
	Due to limited crew, the	
	photographer may assign the	
	additional role of Covid-19	
	Protocol Officer to themselves	
	or another member of the	
	crew	

	Larger Budge	et – Full Crew
Crew Title	General Roles & Duties	COVID-19 Responsibilities
Photographer	Controls and directs the	Overall responsibility for the health and safety of
	creative process that takes	everyone on set
	place in front of the lens, on	$\cdot$ Should wear a mask when working with people
	camera activities, and lighting	• Must maintain the 2 meter physical distancing
	in consultation with the client's	rule when working with anyone
	creative team	• Ensure that all cleaning protocols are followed
		before and after the shoot
		$\cdot$ Is the only person to set up and touch the
		camera and lenses during the shoot
		$\cdot$ Subject is not permitted to come close to the
		camera or computer (if used). Images can be
		reviewed only if a monitor is set up 2 meters
		from the computer.
Producer	Manages people, schedules,	$\cdot$ Ensure that studio or location is safely set up
	communications, delegates	with social distancing measures and traffic flow
	tasks and roles, solves	in place.
	problems, and takes	• Plan layout of shoot to keep all parties
	responsibility.	separate as much as possible.
	Responsible for invoicing,	$\cdot$ Conduct health check-in of all crew and talent
	expenses, and contactless	24 hours prior to shoot
	payments	$\cdot$ Get appropriate declarations and releases
	Provides deliverables/links to	signed by all persons upon arrival on set.
	casting, scouting, and visuals	$\cdot$ Ensure that all PPE is available and used (with
	that need approvals	photographer)
	Takes care of the	$\cdot$ Consult with photographer and clients in
	photographer	advance of shoot about remote access to the
	Organizes and insures	shoot and expectations of the same.
	everything	$\cdot$ Suggest in the estimating and budgeting that
	Handles travel, catering, and	new line items for COVID-19 safety protocol
	transportation	costs be added
	Creates production books	
	Stays on budget and gets	
	overages approved as needed	
	Works closely with art buyer	
	Producer/Agency is usually	
	the go-between for the client	
	and the photographer	

lst Assistant	Sets camera and lighting	$\cdot$ Ensure that all camera gear is clean and
Camera	under photographers	disinfected in advance of the shoot, and again if
	direction, constantly check	they set up gear for the photographer.
	camera settings, check focus,	$\cdot$ Must wear PPE (mask), if working within the 2
	monitor lights, anticipate	meter photographer safe zone
	problems, provide	
	suggestions, and make sure	
	that the photographer can	
	concentrate on the task at	
	hand without distraction.	
2nd Assistant	Helps 1st assistant with	• Ensure that all lighting gear is clean and
Camera	lighting and gear setup,	disinfected in advance of the shoot, and again at
	changes lighting under	completion of shoot.
	direction of the photographer,	• Must wear PPE (mask), while working
	and monitors lighting during	
	the shoot.	
	Cleans, packs, and returns	
	gear to rental houses or studio	
	after the shoot.	
Digitech	Computer imaging technician.	Only person allowed to set up, touch and
	Responsible for setup of	operate computer gear
	workstation, organizes file	<ul> <li>All gear must be disinfected on setup</li> </ul>
	structure and naming, backup	• Must wear mask at all times
	drives, external viewing	<ul> <li>Figure logistics for additional handsfree</li> </ul>
	monitors.	wireless or wired monitors set up to be at
	During shoot: monitoring for	minimum a 2 meter distance from computer
	exposure, focus and technical	workstation and other people.
	needs. Ensures that clients	• Only 1 person per monitor is permitted within
	have a monitor offset to	the 2 meter zone
	watch progress of the shoot.	• At completion of shoot, all gear, drives, and
		memory cards are to be disinfected.
Props	Props stylist acquires and	$\cdot$ If possible, props should be obtained in advance
	adjusts objects to tell the	with enough time for quarantine (up to 72 hours),
	visual story with items that	before bringing to set.
	may be held or seen on	$\cdot$ Prop stylists must wear gloves and mask at all
	camera.	times
	Set dressing may be included	$\cdot$ Suggest sealable plastic bags or baggies to
	in this role, or may be the	bring to the set to be opened using PPE, or allow
	responsibility of a separate set	talent to be the only ones to handle them on set

		$\cdot$ Props should be cleaned and quarantined
		before returns or disposal.
Wardrobe	Responsible for obtaining and	<ul> <li>Wardrobe stylists to use mask and gloves at all</li> </ul>
	preparing all wardrobe that	times
	may be used in the photo	<ul> <li>If possible wardrobe should be obtained in</li> </ul>
	shoot (other than talent	advance with enough time for quarantine (up to
	clothing).	72 hours), before bringing to set.
	The wardrobe stylist is	<ul> <li>Suggest large plastic garment bags to bring to</li> </ul>
	responsible for steaming,	the set and to be opened using PPE, or allow
	pressing, and pinning clothing	talent to be the only ones to handle on set until
	for talent.	shoot is finished.
	If not using talent, stylist folds	$\cdot$ Garments should be cleaned and quarantined
	and prepares the garments on	
	set for the photographer.	
Hair & Makeup	Hair stylists are responsible	• Hair Stylists and Makeup Artists will have their
	for styling hair for the look and	own set of Covid-19 health and safety
	feel of the shoot under	regulations and protocols to follow. These must
	direction of the photographer.	be adhered to on set.
	Makeup artists work with	• Face shields, masks, and gloves must be worn
	talent to achieve the best look	at all times when working with the talent.
	to meet photography style	<ul> <li>No sharing of makeup applicators allowed.</li> </ul>
	requirements	Consider use of disposable applicators
	Both work in direct contact	$\cdot$ It is recommended that separate palettes per
	with the talent	talent are used to avoid cross contamination
		$\cdot$ Disposable towelettes are to be used at all
		times
		• All tools must be disinfected to medical
		standards between use and kits must be
		completely sanitized between shoots
Production	Provides general assistance	• Follow all standard safety and physical
Assistant	on set to help as required. This	distancing protocols
	includes, but is not limited to,	$\cdot$ Should have access to cleaning supplies at all
	carrying and setting up gear,	times
	and preparing tables and	$\cdot$ Must wear mask and gloves when on set
	other required infrastructure	
	to facilitate crew as needed.	

Servicenumber of people in attendance will require a certified first aid attendant on set at all times (Specific provincial regulations on this must be consulted prior to shoot).of Covid-19 health and safety regulations and protocols to follow. These must be adhered to. •No common self-serve craft services will be permittedThis role is often combined with a person or team who provides snacks, drinks, and other items to sustain the crew between meals.of Covid-19 health and safety regulations and protocols to follow. These must be adhered to. •No common self-serve craft services will be permitted		May be required to drive a	
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assist in directing the public after the shoot		Production Assistants will be	methods of communication for location and set
		required to control access and	control and must be cleaned before, during, and
around sets.		assist in directing the public	after the shoot
		around sets.	

Covid-19 Protocol	For larger productions, a	• Responsible for planning, assigning, and
Officer	protocol officer is required for	communicating all enhanced safety measures
	the planning, scheduling, and	on set
	execution of Covid-19 health	$\cdot$ Ensure that all Covid-19 measures and
	and safety protocols.	protocols are adhered to on set including
	Expenses for this crew	physical distancing, appropriate PPE, and
	member should be billed on a	cleaning.
	Covid-19 safety line in	
	estimates.	