



COVID-19  
PROTOCOL  
**audiovisuele**  
**sector**

# NETHERLANDS COVID-19 PROTOCOL FOR THE AUDIOVISUAL SECTOR

## Preamble

The different professions that are involved in audiovisual productions want to continue their work in a safe and responsible way. This is because of the direct and indirect economic interests and because of the vital cultural and social function of audiovisual productions: these act both as a connective tissue for society and as a source of information, amusement, emotion and reflection.

This protocol contains hygiene guidelines, precautionary and protective measures and rules of behaviour. Their purpose is to ensure that workplaces and work situations are as safe as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. The protocol provides clarity to everyone who is involved in audiovisual productions, including professionals, businesses, public service and commercial broadcasters, clients, financiers, and insurers/guarantee funds.

The protocol focuses on the development, preproduction, production and postproduction of audiovisual productions in the broad sense of the term, both scripted and non-scripted, including news and informative programmes, entertainment, commercials, fiction, documentaries, animation, and interactive productions.

Activities on behalf of professional audiovisual productions are regular business activities. Work can take place in studio spaces equipped for this purpose as well as at other indoor and outdoor locations.

Since every audiovisual production is different, in practice there may be a reason for parties to deviate from this protocol if the situation demands it.

It is up to the parties involved - taking into account all precautionary measures - to consider carefully whether an audiovisual production can be continued.

It is advised to always consult the websites of the Dutch government and RIVM (National Institute for Public Health and the Environment) for the current general measures and regulations. You should also always consult the current regulations in the relevant safety region and/or municipality where the filming is planned. Additional measures may be taken for regions where infection rates are high for a longer period.

The protocol will be updated as soon as possible when new insights, advice or measures come into force. The protocol is published on the websites of NAPA and NCP, as is a list of Frequently Asked Questions.

- The NOS broadcasting organisation has its own protocol (for employees, contractors, suppliers, and guests).
- For viewings on location, the protocol of the NVBF applies.
- For music recordings, performing artists and (music) companies should follow the protocols for performing arts and orchestras.

Where the text has been modified compared to versions 8.0 and 9.0, it is marked with an orange line.



## Strategy

The protocol is in line with current Dutch government measures and RIVM recommendations. **Starting point are the general health and hygiene regulations:** stay at home if you have corona-related complaints, ensure good ventilation, maintain good hand hygiene, cough and sneeze into the inside of your elbow. Keeping a sufficient distance from others is also strongly advised, as this is proven to help prevent infections.

When people over 70 or from other vulnerable population groups are involved in productions, extra care is required.

### Quarantine policy

If your work does not allow you to keep the distance required or recommended by the government, you must not have had any corona-related complaints in the 24 hours before coming to work.

If you have corona-related complaints, stay at home and inform your employer. Use a self-test or get tested via the GGD.

If you or someone you have been in close contact with has been diagnosed with a corona infection, you and your family members should follow the current isolation and quarantine regulations - even if you have been fully vaccinated or have recovered from an infection. You can find these via [guarantainecheck.rijksoverheid.nl/en](https://www.ggd.nl/en/over-18/onderzoek-en-testen/risico-afrekenen)

### Preventive testing

For the continuation of work and to facilitate a safe and healthy workplace, it is recommended that preventive tests be used for **persons involved in recordings**. This also applies to persons who have been fully vaccinated or have recovered.

Preventive testing means testing for the presence of the coronavirus without the person showing symptoms of COVID-19, in order to further reduce the risk of spreading the virus. Testing twice a week is recommended. Depending on the more or less fixed composition of the work team, it may be decided to test more or less often.

For persons involved in **high risk situations** - involving intimate scenes of intense physical contact, such as kissing or fighting scenes - preventive testing by means of a PCR test (because of its higher degree of reliability) is strongly recommended.<sup>1</sup>

For persons involved in all **other situations**, antigen (rapid) tests may be used.

The reliability of preventive tests depends to a large extent on whether they are administered correctly. To ensure the accuracy of the testing process and to increase the reliability of the test result, preventive testing can be performed under the (delegated) responsibility of a (company) doctor by, for example, a nurse. In that case, this professional is responsible for the correct administration, use and analysis of the test.

For reasons of privacy, tests must be administered in a separate room and the test result may only be read by the person being tested and any physician or nurse. Test results may not be recorded or shared.

<sup>1</sup> For persons involved in high risk situations, it is not necessary to perform a PCR test for 60 days following a corona infection. PCR tests are more sensitive than rapid antigen tests and may indicate a false-positive test result for some time after recovery, even though the person is not, or no longer, infectious. In such a case, proven recovery is required: the infection was detected more than 11 days previously and the person concerned has had no corona-related symptoms in the previous 24 hours.

### Ventilation

Ensure good ventilation in all work locations. Open windows in indoor areas where people come together. Or make sure that the ventilation systems in buildings are set up in such a way that fresh air is brought into the building regularly. Follow at least the [Dutch Building Decree \('Bouwbesluit'\)](#) and the [national guidelines for the ventilation of buildings](#) (in Dutch only).

### Face masks

Wear a face mask where it is required and where it is advised because of crowding (indoors and outdoors). Wearing a face mask may also be mandatory in the workplace. Make sure the mask always covers the nose, mouth and chin.

## Current

**From 25 February 2022, new relaxations will be introduced in the Dutch national corona regulations, as part of the gradual reopening of the country.**

### Audience + corona access certificate

Audiences are allowed during recordings for AV productions, both in indoor and outdoor locations. This includes talk shows, game shows and recordings of performances.

From Friday 25 February 2022, the rules are as follows:

- There are no longer any restrictions on the opening hours of venues accessible to the public: the general closing hours between 01:00 and 05:00 will cease to apply.
- The obligations to keep a 1.5-metre distance, to wear a face mask, to limit the number of visitors and to have a fixed seat are abolished.
- At indoor activities where more than 500 visitors are present without a fixed seat, visitors from 13 years old must show a negative test certificate in order to be admitted. The test must have been taken within the framework of Testen voor Toegang; the test result is valid for a maximum of 24 hours. The corona access certificate can be shown in the [CoronaCheck-app](#). For audiences of 14 years and older, the corona access certificate must be checked together with an identity document.
- For all other activities, the obligation to present the corona access certificate is no longer required.



## Face masks

You are advised to wear a face mask indoors and outdoors when it is difficult to maintain a distance of 1.5 metres.

As of 25 February 2022, the obligation to wear a face mask will cease to apply in most locations. Only in and around public transport, at the entire airport and in aircraft, the requirement to wear a face mask will continue to apply to everyone aged 13 and over.

Under certain conditions, an **exception** to the legal obligation to wear a face mask applies to video and sound recordings. Are you filming in a place where it is legally required to wear a face mask - for example, in public transport? Then this obligation does not apply to:

- \* persons who participate in the recording of professional audiovisual productions, such as feature films, documentaries and series, in such a place;
- \* recordings of radio and television programmes and online video content for public and commercial media organisations such as broadcasters.

The exception only applies to persons who actually appear on screen or on sound such as actors, actresses, presenters, candidates, experts, jury members and extras. The exception does not apply to members of the audience and persons who help behind the scenes with the recording, such as a cameraman, sound engineer or director. Furthermore, the exception only applies during the recording.

[Information regarding this exception](#) (in Dutch only).

## Travel

Travel well prepared. When travelling to and from abroad, always check the current travel advice and regulations, including those concerning testing and quarantine obligations. Follow advice and obligations. Travel to countries marked orange or red is strongly discouraged.

You can find the current travel advice and regulation via [Netherlandsworldwide.nl](https://www.netherlandsworldwide.nl) (EN) / [Nederlandwereldwijd.nl](https://www.nederlandwereldwijd.nl) (NL) or in the [Travel App of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) (in Dutch only).

- Within the EU, you can travel with the European Digital Corona Certificate (DCC). The DCC is available via the CoronaCheck app.
- Travellers from a non-EU/Schengen country are required to submit a negative NAAT test (PCR) or antigen test when entering the Netherlands.
- Under certain conditions, an [exception to the EU-entry ban](#) and an [exception to the quarantine obligation](#) applies to persons travelling to or from the Netherlands in connection with activities of a Dutch cultural or creative institution or organisation.
  - For the exception to the entry ban you must be in possession of an [entry statement](#) (website in Dutch only).
  - For the exception to the quarantine obligation, you must have a [quarantine declaration](#) and a letter of invitation from the producer, broadcaster or institution concerned. If applicable, you can also make use of the exception for business travellers.
- From 25 February 2022, the general quarantine obligation will no longer apply upon return to the Netherlands. If a new, concerning virus variant appears, travellers returning from countries where this is the case will still have to go into quarantine.

## Workplace

Work at home when possible and at the office or location when necessary. It is up to work/commissioning parties and workers to agree on the best possible division of labour.

## PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

**The following measures must always be observed by all persons present at work sites, such as in the office, in the studio and when recording on location indoors or outdoors, and for various productions.**

1. Do you have any health complaints associated with corona, such as a cold, runny nose, sneezing, sore throat, slight cough, sudden loss of smell and/or taste, tightness in the chest, increased temperature or fever? Stay at home and inform your employer. Use a self-test or get tested via the GGD.
2. You and your housemates must comply with the current isolation and quarantine regulations if you or someone you have been in close contact with has been diagnosed with a corona infection - even if you have been fully vaccinated or have recovered. These can be found via [garantaincheck.rijksoverheid.nl/en](https://www.garantaincheck.rijksoverheid.nl/en)
3. Where necessary, apply a preventive testing policy for persons involved in recordings (see preamble).
4. For persons involved in high-risk situations, such as actors who have to perform intimate scenes with intensive physical contact, preventive testing by means of a PCR test is urgently recommended (see preamble).
5. Ensure good ventilation at all working locations.
6. Ensure good hand hygiene. Wash your hands regularly, at least six times a day, with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and then dry them thoroughly with a paper towel and throw it away immediately. You can also use a disinfectant hand gel containing at least 70% alcohol. Always do this: before going out, when coming home or at work, after blowing your nose, after travelling with public transport, before eating and after going to the toilet.

7. Cough and sneeze into the inside of your elbow. Use paper tissues to blow your nose, then throw them away and wash your hands.
8. Keep your distance from others where required and possible. When setting up locations, make sure that this is possible (also when entering the location). Take into account room to move and walk, and the space taken up by furniture and equipment. Provide enough separate changing rooms.
9. Wear a face mask where required and advised due to crowding (also outdoors).
10. Provide for daily and, if necessary, interim cleaning at the work location. Pay attention to frequently used hand contact points. Follow the [general hygiene guidelines](#) of the LCHV (Dutch National Center for Hygiene and Safety).
11. Appoint a Health & Safety Officer who has responsibility and authority for monitoring and ensuring compliance with the applicable protocol. If effective, combine this task with another function (for example, the in-house emergency and first-aid officer and/or the sustainability manager).
12. Ensure that everyone is aware of the instructions and precautionary measures that follow from the protocol and any specific elaboration per production. Ask contractors (freelance employees) to sign a declaration that they have read this protocol and agree to act accordingly.

The Health & Safety Officer should explicitly draw the attention of all persons who are unable to keep the required or advised distance from each other in their work to the fact that they must not have had any corona-related complaints in the preceding 24 hours before they are allowed to cooperate or come to the work location. They may be asked for their body temperature or it may be taken non-invasively without further processing.

13. When recording on location, always inform the municipality and/or Safety Region and (if applicable) local residents in advance in order to avoid ambiguity.
14. Always consult the current regulations in the relevant Safety Region and/or municipality where filming is planned. Additional measures may follow for regions where infection rates are high for a longer period.
15. When travelling to and from abroad, always check the current travel advice and the current regulations, including those relating to compulsory testing and quarantine. Follow the advice and obligations. You can find the current travel advice and regulation via [Netherlandsworldwide.nl](https://www.netherlandsworldwide.nl) (EN) / [Nederlandwereldwijd.nl](https://www.nederlandwereldwijd.nl) (NL) or in the [Travel App of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) (in Dutch only).
16. Draw up a project plan for each production in which it is laid down how the protocol will be implemented.
17. Limit the number of people present. (Executive) producers must be critical of who does or does not need to be present on the set or at the work location. Avoid unnecessary set visits or spectators.
18. Where possible, apply a home working policy for work that does not necessarily have to be done at the office or location, such as script development, research and editing.
19. Organise meetings, castings, auditions or other pre-production work as well as post-production work via (digital) communication means where possible.
20. Identify in advance which employees are strictly necessary to carry out the work during the shoot. Work as much as possible in permanent teams, so that there is a limited, manageable and controllable group of workers.

Make sure that employees are recognisable per department/discipline (for example, by means of coloured bands). This makes it clear who should/should be present at the work location.

21. Structure (the preparation for) shooting days in such a way that workflows follow each other as far as possible and do not overlap, so that one department finishes work before the next department arrives. In the case of recordings lasting several days, plan the activities as much as possible in a consecutive working week.
22. Avoid unnecessary group formation. For example, by taking turns taking breaks and/or using several rooms. Changes of (groups of) employees should take place in a structured and announced manner and via walking routes, whereby, if applicable, the mandatory or recommended distance between them is observed as much as possible. Also mark out walking routes in places where many people are likely to congregate at the same time (e.g. coffee corners, canteen/catering areas, toilets) in order to create as much one-way traffic as possible and to prevent 'cross traffic'. If necessary, place markings to monitor distances.
23. Clearly mark a filming location as a workplace and keep passers-by at a distance; for example, use construction fencing and other means such as information boards (by analogy with a building site). Ensure the presence of additional assistance for crowd control in the event of outdoor shoots.
24. If third-party locations are used or rented: do not use these locations if the owners or permanent users of this location - or their family members - are suffering from colds and fevers (38 degrees Celsius or higher) and/or tightness of the chest when they (also) use the room(s).
25. In the case of fixed workplaces (e.g. production vehicles and recordings with an audience) where the compulsory or recommended distance between workers is not possible: realise extra safety provisions, e.g. mobile partitions made of plexiglas or plastic.

26. Catering staff should ensure extra good hand hygiene. Where possible, hand out drinks and food in single-serving containers by placing them on a take-away table, or ensure that drinks and food are served.
27. Use personal equipment and tools as much as possible. Tools should preferably not be shared. Clean your hands before and after using equipment, tools and other consumables, also from suppliers. If necessary, clean equipment and materials in the meantime.
28. Select the materials to be used in terms of size, weight and operation as far as possible on the basis of the possibility of one person operating them.
29. Use extra equipment/equipment in order to be able to guarantee the required or advised distance (for example: monitors, rods, etc.).
30. Actors, presenters, performers, jury members and other participants should, where possible, provide their own clothing/styling/costume and make-up/hair and the placement of any audio transmitters.
31. If clothing/styling and make-up/hair are provided by an employee or in case of live instructions of stunts: always ensure good hand hygiene and use mouth masks where necessary. The same applies if a staff member applies audio transmitters to actors, presenters, jury members and other participants or guests.
32. All attributes used by a staff member are personal (e.g. personal make-up) or are only used once per actor, presenter, participant, jury member, extra or guest. Use a clear control system (e.g. logbook, colour/date stickers).

## COLOPHON

### NETHERLANDS COVID-19 PROTOCOL AUDIOVISUAL SECTOR Version 9.1 – 25 February 2022

The Netherlands COVID-19 Protocol for the Audiovisual Sector has been adopted in consultation with and with input from professionals from DAFF (Dutch Academy For Film), the various industry and professional associations, public-service and commercial broadcasting organisations, businesses, funds and the Taskforce for the cultural and creative sector. The content of the protocol has also been coordinated with the Ministry of OCW (Education, Culture and Science); after adoption, the document has been submitted to the Ministries of OCW and EZK (Economic Affairs and Climate).

The protocol has been drawn up by a task force commissioned by NAPA (Netherlands Audiovisual Producers Alliance) and NCP (Association of Dutch Content Producers). The most recent version of the protocol is always available on the websites of both associations, as well as a list of Frequently Asked Questions.

[Netherlands Audiovisual Producers Alliance \(NAPA\)](#)  
[Association of Dutch Content Producers \(NCP\)](#)

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