

Discovery Production COVID-19 Global Guidelines

Countries around the globe are lifting COVID-19 restrictions and changing isolation and quarantine requirements due to an increase in vaccinations and steadily decreasing COVID-19 infection rates. However, COVID-19 continues to pose a risk and requires all individuals and businesses to take precautions and modify operations and activities to reduce the risk of spread.

As a result of the loosening of restrictions and changing COVID conditions in parts of the world, Discovery has reassessed its Production COVID-19 Guidelines that were in place to assist production companies with mitigating the risk posed by COVID-19. These guidelines were and still are, based on information from the Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), local public health administrations and guidance from the television and film industry.

Updated Discovery Guidance

- Discovery continues to request production companies to monitor and follow all governmental and health authority requirements as it relates to travel and filming locations as well as any industry specific mandates. Consult with your legal representative for guidance prior to initiating any production activity and to confirm governmental and public health policies and requirements.
- Discovery requests that production companies do not send private health information to Discovery employees (e.g. COVID test results, vaccination status, etc.). Production companies should continue to alert Discovery of any positive cases, and steps being taken by the Production Company.
- Discovery requests any updates to your existing COVID safety plan be submitted to Discovery Production Management for review.
- Production companies must follow all government-mandated screening and testing requirements for all on-set personnel specific to the production location, including any testing required for travel to the location. When no specific requirements are mandated but diagnostic testing is part of the production COVID plan, Discovery recommends:
 - The use of PCR testing over antigen testing (where applicable) for production prescreening no more than 48 hours prior to arriving on set. 24 hours or less is preferred depending on scheduling and availability.
 - For individuals testing positive and placed in isolation, Discovery continues to support a minimum 10-day isolation period with no symptoms or fever for the last 24 hours. If testing out of the 10-day isolation period is permitted as part of the COVID Production Plan, antigen testing is recommended over PCR testing (due to the possibility of testing positive for up to 90 days with PCR testing).
 - If production is following the 5-day isolation CDC guidance (released in December 2021) for a positive test result, Discovery recommends an antigen test on day 5 and day 6. Individuals may return to production if both tests are negative. Individuals who return to production must show no symptoms, have no fever, and wear a well-fitted mask for the remainder of the 10-day isolation period.

Discovery Production COVID-19 Global Guidelines

- If one of the two antigen tests is positive, the individual can continue to test daily with antigen tests until two tests are negative, or they reach day 10.
- Talent (Zone A) cannot test out early after 5 days and are required to isolate for the full 10 days, returning on day 11 with no symptoms or fever. A negative antigen test on day 10 should be considered as part of the return protocols.
- Productions or events that occur at a Discovery owned or leased property must use a Discovery preferred vendor to assist with ensuring a safe production environment. In New York and Knoxville, Discovery requires WithHealth (<https://www.withhealth.com/>) be retained for COVID testing and sourcing of COVID Compliance Officers (CCO). In the event testing is not available through WithHealth, contact the appropriate Discovery Production Manager. Additional testing providers may include ParaDocs (<https://www.paradocsworldwide.com/>) or Cirrus DX (<http://cirrusdx.com/>). Discovery offices in Poland, UK, France or other locations with studios should follow local laws and regulations.

The guidance is subject to change based on expert medical advice, government requirements and industry standards. The information is not intended to address every component of COVID-19 risk mitigation, and the guidance does not determine when production companies may start or stop filming operations. Decisions on filming operations and COVID-19 protocols must be made in accordance with all applicable governmental requirements or industry mandates.

Because every production is different, Discovery encourages each production team to think strategically about risk mitigation for the production environment. Each production company is responsible for developing an assessment and mitigation plan in line with current governmental requirements and applicable health organization guidance.

The general guidance below will assist each production with developing a COVID-19 Safety Plan to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and manage situations if an individual associated with the production exhibits symptoms. These elements listed in the general guidance section should be part of each production Safety Plan and implemented as far as reasonably practical. Following this guidance will not guarantee against a COVID-related event that requires a temporary or complete shutdown of production, and each production company is responsible for its decision to resume production.

General Guidance for Production Companies

- Abide by all applicable governmental requirements for the filming location and industry directives. This includes but is not limited to:
 - Social Distancing
 - Masks and PPE
 - Testing
 - Vaccinations
 - Quarantine & Isolation
 - Travel
 - Reporting
 - COVID Compliance Officers (CCO)

Discovery Production COVID-19 Global Guidelines

- Develop or update return-to-work policies and business continuity plans to reflect the current COVID-19 situation.
- Develop a COVID-19 Safety Plan that includes:
 - Country, state and local requirements and guidelines
 - Health monitoring and screening
 - Social distancing
 - Hygiene best practices
 - Cleaning and disinfecting measures
 - PPE requirements and mask usage
 - Exposure Action Plan (EAP) in the event a crew member exhibits symptoms
 - Quarantine protocols
 - Isolation protocols
 - Criteria for a temporary or complete production shutdown
- Ensure all production members are aware of the COVID-19 Safety Plan before filming.
- Consider requiring cast and crew to sign a COVID-19 Safety Plan acknowledgement form and releases of liability/hold harmless waivers.
- Limiting production staffing to essential crew only and ensure cast and crew do not report to work if they have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, have come in contact with a positive case or tested positive for COVID-19.
- Conduct daily safety briefings for mitigation reminders, concerns, or protocol adjustments.
- Identify the person on the production to be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the COVID-19 Safety Plan if a COVID Compliance Officer (CCO) is not part of the production.
- Source all personal protective equipment (PPE) and infection prevention supplies needed for the production, including face masks, hand sanitizer, disinfectants, and (when needed) gloves, mobile hand washing stations, and other equipment and supplies.
- Display appropriate signage or posters for health & safety, hygiene practices, social distancing, PPE usage and reporting.
- Implement health screening controls to mitigate the risk of a production member appearing on location with symptoms or the virus. This may involve health declarations, temperature checks, and regular or periodic testing. Records must always be kept private and secure.
 - Determine if country, state or local health screening or testing requirements apply.
 - Determine if a COVID Compliance Officer is needed to assist with health screenings and disinfecting common areas and equipment. In some jurisdictions, a COVID Compliance Officer is required.
 - Medical expertise should always guide decision-making with respect to testing, contact tracing and symptom screening.
 - Consider implementing mental health resources to support the wellness of the cast and crew.

Discovery Production COVID-19 Global Guidelines

Resources

- [WHO - Coronavirus](#)
 - [Updates](#)
 - [FAQ's](#)
 - [Contact Tracing](#)
- [CDC \(US\) - Coronavirus](#)
 - [Updates](#)
 - [Quarantine & Isolation](#)
 - [Quarantine & Isolation FAQ's](#)
 - [Guidance on Testing](#)
 - [Contact Tracing](#)
- [OSHA \(US\) - Coronavirus](#)
 - [Guidance on Returning to Work](#)
 - [OSHA reporting memorandum](#) .
- [FDA \(US\) - Coronavirus](#)
- [NIH \(US\) - Coronavirus](#)
- [Health & Human Services \(US\) - Coronavirus](#)
- [HSE \(UK\) - Coronavirus](#)
- [John Hopkins University & Medicine - Coronavirus](#)
- [The Safe Way Forward](#) (Joint Report from DGA, SAG-AFTRA, IATSE and Teamsters' Committees)
- [Industry-Wide Labor Management Safety Committee Task Force](#) (Alliance of Motion Pictures & Television Producers)