

INFORMATION SHEET - FILMING DURING CORONA

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Gender note: For ease of reading, male pronouns are used in all Covid-19 documents. The female form is of course always included.

Due to the increasing number of cases of coronavirus, the Federal Council adopted additional national measures on 28 October 2020. Wide-ranging restrictions are intended to defuse the situation. At the same time, the Federal Council wants to prevent a complete lockdown as far as possible and thereby avert the associated economic damage. Where cantonal measures are stricter than national ones, these must be observed.

The following current questions and answers concern filming in Switzerland:

Is filming still allowed at all?

Yes. The restriction of cultural activities does not apply to the professional sector. However, the measures taken in accordance with the protection concept must be observed at all times.

Are the actors exempt from the obligation to wear masks?

The Regulation includes an exception to the obligation to wear masks for performing artists (Art. 3b (2) (f) COVID-19 Regulation). Anyone who has to shoot a scene is exempt from the obligation to wear masks when in front of the camera; masks must be worn the rest of the time, as provided for in the protection concept.

What must be observed when shooting in public space?

Strict rules on masks apply in public places. During filming, care must be taken to create clear barriers to ensure that the measures stipulated in the protection concept apply within the barrier. People watching from outside should be made aware of the obligation to wear masks. Cantonal rules must also be observed; each canton can draw up its own rules here.

Is the participation of extras possible?

Extras are not professional actors. For non-professionals, a maximum number of 15 persons is recommended (Art. 6f (2) lit. a no. 3 COVID-19 Regulation). There is a general obligation to wear masks or to keep a minimum distance. If the mask cannot be worn, the general conditions of the protection concept must be strictly adhered to.

What should be considered when film professionals enter the country from a country with quarantine obligations?

When entering from a high-risk country, the quarantine obligation no longer applies if someone needs to come to Switzerland for filming. The quarantine obligations also no longer apply when returning from filming in a high-risk country, provided that the protection concepts were also in force and applied during filming abroad.

What happens if someone on the set shows symptoms of illness?

Proceed according to the protection concept.

What happens if someone on the set falls ill with Covid?

Proceed according to the protection concept. Registration of daily sick pay for the sick person, if available. If shooting is interrupted, employees are referred to the RAV in accordance with the agreement with SSFV (short-time work is no longer possible with fixed-term employment contracts). If appropriate, make an application for financial aid in accordance with Art. 4 COVID-19-Cultural Ordinance to the competent canton.

What happens if someone on the set has to be quarantined?

Proceed according to the protection concept. Shooting may have to be interrupted. In case of an interruption of shooting:

- Refer non-quarantined employees to the REO (short-time work is no longer possible with fixed-term contracts).
- Refer quarantined employees to the AHV compensation fund (employee can apply for compensation for loss of earnings).

If appropriate, an application for financial aid in accordance with Art. 4 COVID-19-Cultural Ordinance can be made to the competent canton.

What happens if shooting has to be interrupted due to government measures (e.g. shooting ban, business closure)?

Make an application for compensation for loss of earnings to the competent AHV compensation office. If appropriate, make an application for financial aid in accordance with Art. 4 COVID-19-Cultural Ordinance to the competent canton.

How does the coronavirus compensation for loss of earnings work?

Only those persons who have been ordered by the authorities to undergo quarantine or isolation, or self-employed persons in the event of closure ordered by the authorities or a ban on events, are entitled to compensation. There is no claim in the case of an alarm on the CovidApp or voluntary quarantine. The amount of compensation is 80% of income, up to a maximum of 196 francs per day, i.e. a maximum of 5,880 francs in a month with 30 days. Self-employed persons are also entitled to this compensation.