



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 aims to ensure the safest possible working situation during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. It provides clarity to everyone 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.

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 advice and 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 [Sector Plan Corona](#) for the cultural and creative sector is specifically aimed at receiving audiences in a safe manner. It includes prevention and intervention measures related to four risk levels.
- 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 10.0 it is marked with an orange line.

Current

As of 11 March 2023, the Dutch government advisories regarding testing and isolation in case of (suspected) corona infection have been dropped. The government has decided to do so on the advice of the Outbreak Management Team (OMT) and the Social Impact Team (MIT) because at present few people become seriously ill from the current virus variants.

Current information can be found at: [Mijnvraagovercorona \(EN\)](#)

Strategy

The protocol is in line with current Dutch government measures and advice to prevent the spread of respiratory infections.

Do you have any health complaints associated with respiratory infections, such as coughing, sneezing, sore throat and a runny nose?

- Stay home if you are sick.
- In the event of minor complaints, discuss with your employer or client whether you can work from home.
- Avoid physical contact with people who could become seriously ill from a respiratory infection. If physical contact is necessary, wear a face mask.

The following applies to everyone with or without complaints:

- Ensure good ventilation of indoor areas.
- Cough and sneeze into the inside of your elbow.
- Practice good hand hygiene.

Preventive testing?

Preventive testing means testing for the presence of the coronavirus *without* the person showing symptoms of COVID-19.

- There is currently no (urgent) recommendation to use preventive testing and/or PCR testing for persons involved in filming.

Ventilation

- Ensure good 24-hour ventilation at all work sites.
- Open windows in indoor areas where people congregate, or ensure that ventilation installations in buildings are set up in such a way that fresh air is regularly brought into a building. Provide ventilation without recirculation if there is an increased risk of infection.
- Follow at least the [Dutch Building Decree \('Bouwbesluit'\)](#) and the [national guidelines for the ventilation of buildings](#) (in Dutch only).
- Where possible, use CO2 meters to monitor the air quality in common areas; avoid CO2 values of 1200 PPM or higher.

Workplace

Hybrid working (combination of working at home and at the office) should be encouraged. It is up to employers/commissioning parties and workers to agree on the best possible allocation.

Travel

When travelling to and from abroad, always check the current travel advice and regulations via [Netherlandsworldwide.nl](#) (EN) / [Nederlandwereldwijd.nl](#) (NL) or in the [Travel App of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) (in Dutch only). Follow advice and obligations. Travel to countries marked orange or red is strongly discouraged.

PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

1. Do you have any health complaints associated with respiratory infections, 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? Inform your employer/client and stay at home if you are ill. In the event of minor complaints, discuss with your employer/client whether you can work from home. Avoid physical contact with people who could become seriously ill from respiratory infections.
2. Ensure good 24-hour ventilation at all working locations.
3. Ensure good hand hygiene.
Wash your hands regularly with soap and water and then dry them thoroughly, preferably with a paper towel that you throw 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.
4. Cough and sneeze into the inside of your elbow. Use paper tissues to blow your nose, then throw them away and wash your hands.
5. Provide for daily cleaning at the work location. Follow the [general hygiene guidelines](#) of the LCHV (Dutch National Center for Hygiene and Safety).
6. Appoint a Health & Safety Officer who has responsibility and authority for monitoring and ensuring compliance with the applicable protocol. You may combine this task with another function (for example, the in-house emergency and first-aid officer and/or the sustainability manager).
7. Ensure that everyone is aware of the instructions and precautionary measures that follow from the protocol and any specific elaboration per production.
8. When recording on location, always inform the municipality and/or Safety Region and (if applicable) local residents in advance in order to avoid ambiguity.
9. Always consult the current regulations in the relevant Safety Region and/or municipality where filming is planned.
10. When travelling to and from abroad, always check the current travel advice and the current regulations, including those relating to compulsory testing and quarantine. 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). Follow the advice and obligations.
11. 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.
12. Organise meetings or other work activities via (digital) communication means where possible.
13. Identify in advance which employees are necessary to carry out the work during the shoot. Work as much as possible in permanent teams, so that there is a manageable and controllable group of workers.
14. Structure (the preparation for) shooting days in such a way that workflows follow each other as far as possible. In the case of recordings lasting several days, plan the activities as much as possible in a consecutive working week.

15. 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 when necessary.
16. 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).
17. Eat and drink healthy, regularly and varied, and take sufficient (night) rest time, also during shooting periods.

COLOPHON

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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 \(NCP\)](#)

Task force

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