



Modified quarantine procedures for filming in Iceland during COVID-19

How is COVID-19 spread and which measures (personal and systematic) are used to reduce spread?

The virus which causes COVID-19 disease can be spread with droplets from a sick person or on contact (by touch). This means that there is a risk of spreading the virus when an infected person sneezes, coughs or blows their nose, spraying droplets. A healthy person may then be infected if they inhale these droplets or if droplets contaminate their hands and they then touch their eyes, nose or mouth.

The most important personal measure to reduce the risk of infection is thoughtful [hand hygiene](#). Infected persons contaminate surfaces less if they clean their hands after touching their face and prior to touching surfaces and healthy persons are less likely to contaminate themselves if they clean their hands after touching other people or surfaces and before they touch their own face. **Crew members need to pay special attention to hand hygiene and it is recommended that all crew members [wash or sanitize hands frequently](#).** Frequent **cleaning of common surfaces** further reduces risk of surface contamination spreading to healthy persons. Sufficient supplies of hand sanitizer and cleaning materials are the responsibility of the production company.

Maintaining distance between individuals reduces the risk for healthy persons to inhale infected droplets. For certain tasks where close contact between staff is unavoidable, [disposable gloves and/or surgical masks](#) may be appropriate, with careful attention to hand hygiene before and after glove use. **Please avoid latex gloves and powdered gloves as they are more likely to cause allergies.** Sufficient supplies of protective equipment (gloves and masks) are the responsibility of the production company.

Systematic or societal measures to reduce spread of COVID-19 vary from country to country. Any production in Iceland must follow the general rules in effect in Iceland, regardless of the nationality of the cast and crew. The following is an overview of where to monitor which measures are in effect in Iceland:

- The latest information on COVID-19 in Iceland can be found [here](#).
- Iceland collaborates with other European countries regarding [restrictions of entry for non-EU/EEA nationals](#) during the pandemic. The latest information on restrictions related to **travel** to [Iceland](#) is easily accessible on the [website for the Directorate of Immigration](#).
- The latest information on entry procedures for travel to Iceland can be found [here](#). Any member of crew or cast who has traveled to Iceland from a [risk area](#) less than 14 days prior to start of production will need to be in quarantine until 14 days after arrival in Iceland **OR** undergo PCR testing for SARS-CoV-2 on arrival and again 5 days after arrival **AND** observe quarantine until the result of the second test is negative. This modified quarantine procedure may be used for either option but due to the high risk of spread among cast and crew if COVID-19 outbreak occurs during production it is highly recommended to use the double screening with short quarantine for such projects. Application is required for permission to use this modification as this is considered a relatively high-risk modification from quarantine due to the large size of many production teams and mixing of groups and individuals from the local population and elsewhere. The application form can be found [here](#).
- During the COVID-19 epidemic in Iceland social distancing measures and bans on gatherings have been vital in limiting spread of the disease. These measures are the purview of the Ministry of Health and exemptions or modifications must be requested from hrn@hrn.is. These measures have been tightened and lifted as considered appropriate to the situation over the past few months. The latest information on such restrictions can be found on the website for the [government of Iceland](#). **Please keep in mind**

that rules may be changed with short notice when the situation worsens. Such changes are likely to affect exemptions from social distancing measures and if the situation is severe enough may lead to exemptions for modified quarantine being voided.

- Due to the lack of vaccine or effective antiviral therapy against SARS-CoV-2 which causes COVID-19, the key systematic containment measure available for COVID-19 is isolation of individuals with COVID-19 and quarantine for individuals who are known or possible contacts of those with the disease. The Ministry of Health has [confirmed](#) the rules of [isolation](#) and [quarantine](#) as put forth by the Chief Epidemiologist and instituted fines or imprisonment for violations of these rules. According to the rules published by the Ministry of Health, the Chief Epidemiologist may modify the rules and allow exemptions. The following document is a modification of the rules for quarantine after travel to Iceland for production crews travelling to Iceland for specific projects. These modifications **do not apply** for individuals in quarantine after **known exposure** or for individuals with COVID-19 who must be **isolated**.

Modified quarantine procedures to reduce risk of COVID-19 spread on production site:

1. Occupational safety and worker's rights:

- a. The production company shall clearly designate someone responsible for safety at work, whom the cast and crew members may contact.
- b. The production company is responsible for providing information and guidelines on occupational safety and the health and well-being of all members of the production.
- c. At a minimum, the occupational health and safety measures in accordance with these recommendations that relate to general occupational safety must be communicated to all those involved in the production.
- d. Specific occupational safety measures for each given day of filming must be communicated in advance to all cast and crew members involved. Cast and crew must also have the opportunity to contact the appointed occupational health and safety representative ahead of filming.
- e. The entire cast and crew shall be informed of the rules on sick leave. Individuals displaying flu-like symptoms must remain at home until they have been examined by a medical professional before they can return to work. COVID-19 infections must be confirmed by a medical professional. See below.

2. Travel to Iceland, to and from airport and within Iceland for production:

- a. Travel restrictions to enter the EU/Schengen area apply to travel to Iceland. Information on the current rules is available on the website for the [Directorate of Immigration](#). The [Ministry for Foreign Affairs' Consular Services](#), or the nearest Icelandic embassy, can provide more information on this matter. Production members who are not EU or Schengen nationals can apply for an exemption from the temporary travel restrictions for essential business purposes. Such applications should be sent to: visa@utn.is.
- b. Hand hygiene is of paramount importance to avoid infection while traveling. It is recommended that all travelers carry hand-sanitizer to use frequently during travel, especially after touching common surfaces in the airport or airplane, and prior to meals.
- c. In flight use of masks is required, gloves may be considered but must be used [sensibly](#).
- d. Upon arrival in Iceland crew goes straight to accommodations or work site. After arrival in Iceland the crew members in quarantine can only travel between work locations (shooting locations and production office) and accommodations using appropriate vehicles. No exceptions are allowed during quarantine. Violations may result in fines and enforcement of full quarantine as long as it is indicated.
- e. Travel within Iceland during quarantine must be by means of private vehicle, taxi, private rental/charter vehicle or means provided by the production company. If working outside of Reykjavik production will provide transportation in accordance with government regulations. **Persons in quarantine may not use public transport, this includes commercial domestic flights.** Symptomatic individuals may not use taxis.

- f. Shared vehicles should be thoroughly ventilated and driver/pilot should make sure that all contact surfaces are wiped/disinfected between trips and/or groups. The production team must provide **separate vehicles** for personnel not in quarantine and for those in quarantine. All non-private vehicles used must be compliant with the [instructions](#) (Icelandic only) in place regarding separation of driver and passengers and limitations of occupancy below the maximum capacity.
- g. After production is finished international crew and cast members who are still in the quarantine period should go straight from accommodations or worksite to airport.

3. Specific measures due to presence of crew and/or cast in quarantine on site:

- a. If part or all of the cast and crew arrive in Iceland from a [risk area](#) within days of starting work on a production, they will be in quarantine either 14 days until after arrival or up to 7 days if the double testing procedure is followed (5-6 days generally). In such cases the production company must apply for modification of quarantine rules to the Chief Epidemiologist for Iceland.
- b. All crew and cast who travel from a COVID-19 [risk area](#) must be [registered in quarantine](#) no later than on arrival in Iceland. Productions using these modifications to quarantine to avoid delay of production while members of the team complete quarantine should have included in their request for modified quarantine for the production the information necessary for pre-registration of the cast and crew in quarantine. The members in quarantine must familiarize themselves with the [rules of quarantine](#) as well as these modifications.
- c. For longer productions, the [general rules in force](#) in Icelandic society at any time are applicable to the cast and crew once they have completed their quarantine period, however, **the production company can set stricter rules for the duration of the production.**
- d. **It is recommended that the entire cast and crew obey the same rules**, even if some members may not be legally registered in quarantine. It follows that later arrival of some members will prolong the time such rules are in effect for all members involved in the production. **This also reduces the risk of introduction of COVID-19 from Icelandic society into the production group.**
- e. Each morning all crew and cast in quarantine must have their body temperature checked before entering the workplace. The production may provide a designated professional to complete this procedure with appropriate hygiene. **Other symptoms to be aware of include:** cough and breathlessness, runny nose (cold) or sore throat, sudden changes in the sense of smell or taste, fatigue, headache or body aches. If such symptoms arise, temperature should be checked. Regardless of the presence or absence of fever, no cast or crew member may be on site with symptoms. If symptoms arise, the individual must notify their superior and return to/remain in their accommodations, **alone**, until medical care and transfer to a more appropriate site for isolation can be arranged. If the person who is ill is not able to be alone, a designated member of the crew must stay with them. Please refer to [the instructions for frontline service staff](#) for the appropriate response for illness in the workplace. **Illness that is confirmed to be related to COVID-19 voids all accepted modifications to quarantine for contacts of the sick individual and results in [full 14 day quarantine](#) for all contacts**, including those not previously quarantined.
- f. Hygiene facilities **must** be clearly labeled for use by members in quarantine or members not in quarantine. They must be [sanitized](#) frequently. It is recommended that members in quarantine wipe off common surfaces they have touched after each use (ex. lightswitch, doorknob and locking mechanism, faucet, flushing mechanism, toilet seat).
- g. Other facilities, such as breakrooms, changing rooms etc. should be separate for members in quarantine vs. not in quarantine if at all possible.
- h. It is recommended that there be as little mixing of production members in quarantine and members not in quarantine as possible, and that all effort be made to allow at least the 2 metres distance between an individual in quarantine and an individual not in quarantine who must interact.

4. **Distancing measures and limitations of group sizes to reduce risk of spread of COVID-19:**
- a. The Icelandic Ministry for Health has implemented limitations on size of gatherings due to COVID-19. While such limitations are in effect, they apply to film production crews. Modifications of quarantine procedures by the Chief Epidemiologist are unrelated to the limitations of gatherings. Any exemptions desired from the measures implemented by the Ministry of Health must be sought directly from the Ministry (hrn@hrn.is).
 - b. Crew size should be kept to a minimum in general, and organized into groups in such a way that a safe distance of 2 metres to crew members and cast in other groups can generally be maintained.
 - c. The number of people on set for each scene or task should be limited as much as possible. Visitors are not allowed on set. Cast and crew should only be present for scenes and tasks they are directly involved in.
 - d. Changing rooms, breakrooms and dining areas are to be spacious enough to allow the recommended safety distance of 2 metres between all cast and crew members. It may be necessary to make schedules for such facilities to be used by more people than can be accommodated at one time. If multiple groups must use the same facilities in sequence they should be [sanitized](#) between groups. Hygiene of work spaces, break rooms and other shared spaces as well as equipment is to be maintained throughout the day.
 - e. It may be necessary to divide the cast and crew into groups for meals to allow 2 metres distance between individuals and/or to arrange for those who can to have meals in on-site accommodation.
 - f. On-set catering should be provided in individual containers whenever possible. There should not be self-service using shared utensils, but cafeteria staff may serve each person from multi-portion containers using appropriate precautions and distancing measures. There shall be no congestion when distributing food.
 - g. Cast members must dress themselves and set up their own microphones according to the wardrobe and sound departments' instructions, respectively.
 - h. The same makeup and hair staff should tend to the same cast members throughout the period of production as much as possible to reduce the number of persons each staff and cast member is in close contact with during the production. It is recommended that the makeup and hair departments use personal protective equipment while working with cast (surgical mask and gloves, with careful attention to hand hygiene before and after glove use). Tools and materials used should be designated for a specific cast member for the duration of the project and kept carefully separated to reduce risk of cross-contamination between makeup staff and talent. Consider the possibility of self-application and/or single-use materials and tools.
 - i. Face masks are **required** when distance between cast or crew members is less than 2 metres. This applies for **rehearsals** of scenes as well. Please refer to the [current rules for social distancing](#) in Iceland and apply for exemption to hrn@hrn.is if appropriate for the production requirements.
 - j. Shooting intimate scenes should be avoided if possible. The cast member has the right to refuse close contact with other cast members, e.g. hugging and kissing. If production takes longer than 14 days, such scenes should be shot after the first 14 days of the involved parties' presence on site to reduce the risk that they are in the incubation period of COVID-19 while working on an intimate scene.

This document contains instructions for implementation of the modification but **permission to use the modified rules must be requested on a project to project basis from the Chief Epidemiologist.**

These modifications were developed in collaboration with

