

## ScreenSafe - The End of the Traffic Light System

Wednesday, 14 September 2022

As of 11:59pm on Monday 12 September, the COVID-19 Protection Framework (AKA the Traffic Light System) ended. With case numbers falling, a highly vaccinated population, and increased access to antiviral medicines to treat COVID-19, public health experts say it is safe to remove most COVID-19 rules and end border restrictions.

This means that for most settings, including work places and film shoots, we can go back to “life as normal”. Mask wearing, physical distancing, testing, etc. is no longer a Government requirement in most situations. Though don't be surprised if you are still asked to wear a mask. And some people will still chose to wear one.

### Safety Protocols for the Screen Industry

As of Monday night, the ScreenSafe COVID-19 Protocols are no longer valid. But please note that COVID-19 has by no means been eradicated. And it will still be part of our lives for the foreseeable future.

Depending on the individual needs of a production, the specific requirements of a scene or location, or the personal situation of a crew or cast member, some productions may still need to utilise some of the many safety measures we've gotten used to over the last few years, including mask wearing, testing, vaccination status and the use of health declarations and release deeds. It's up to each production to clearly state their intention. If a production sees the need for putting in place additional COVID-19 safety measures, we recommend that they engage with the crew and the safety team as early as possible.

### Personal Responsibility

While regular testing and mask wearing will not be mandatory for most productions, personal responsibly for yourself and your colleagues will become more important. Most of us are freelance contractors and don't have the safety net that employees have with sick days, etc. So if we can't work, we don't get paid... This goes for both yourself and your colleagues. If you feel sick, please notify production and/or safety. Please test when unwell or if you are a household contact.

### Where is Mask Wearing Still Mandatory?

Masks will still be required in hospitals and other healthcare facilities like medical centres, pharmacies, A&E, etc.

### New Rules for Household Contacts

Positive cases must still self-isolate for at least 7 days, but Household Contacts no longer need to isolate. If you live with someone who tests positive for COVID-19, we recommend you:

- take a rapid antigen test (RAT) each day for 5 days in order to go to work
- avoid contact with the person who has COVID-19

### Travellers Arriving Into New Zealand

Vaccination requirements for travellers arriving in New Zealand will end, including air crew. People entering New Zealand will be given free RATs and are recommend to test on the day they arrive and on day 5 or 6.

Sincerely,  
The ScreenSafe COVID-19 Group  
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CC:



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