



Wednesday 17th November 2021

Screen Industry Guidance – Likely Implementation of the Traffic Light System

As announced today, it is expected that on the 29th of November, Cabinet will move both Auckland AND the rest of the country into the RED Traffic Light System “shortly thereafter”.

ScreenSafe are currently rewriting the Screen Industry COVID-19 Protocols in line with the new COVID-19 Protection Framework (aka the Traffic Light System). While that work is underway and while we await more detailed information from the government, MoH and WorkSafe, ScreenSafe has prepared the below initial guidance so our industry can start the mental shift to a new system.

Disclaimer: The below guidance is not official and final advice for implementation, but are assumptions based on the information provided by the government so far. Should additional information be provided, we will issue further guidance.

Sincerely,
The ScreenSafe COVID-19 Group

CC:
NZFC
NZ On Air
SPADA
NZAPG
SIGANZ
RFO

The Traffic Light System

In October 2021 the government announced The COVID-19 Protection Framework (aka the Traffic Light System) to replace the four level system. It’s a system designed for living with COVID-19 in the community. This is of course a huge mind-shift for everyone, but it is built on the foundation of one of the highest vaccination rates in the world.

Overall, the intent of the government appears to be:

- Encourage everyone to get vaccinated so that we can safely reopen the country
- Reduce stress on the health system and protect the vulnerable
- Ensure certainty and business continuity by incentivising businesses that use the vaccination passport system

Once all the District Health Boards (DHB) in a region reach a minimum 90% double vaccination rate for its eligible population, the Traffic Light System will replace the current 4-Level Alert system in that region.

The system is based on the following levels:

GREEN is when there are some COVID-19 cases in the community, and sporadic imported cases. Community transmission will be limited and COVID-19 hospitalisations will be at a manageable level. The health system will be ready to respond, including primary care, public health, and hospitals.

At **ORANGE**, there will be increasing community transmission putting pressure on our health system. The whole of the health system will focus its resources, but can continue to manage primary care, public health, and hospitals. There may also be an increasing risk for at-risk people.

At **RED**, action will need to be taken to protect both at-risk people and protect our health system from an unsustainable number of hospitalisations.

Factors for considering a shift between levels will be: local vaccination coverage; capacity of the health and disability system; testing, contact tracing and case management capacity; and the transmission of COVID-19 within the community, including its impact on key populations.

PS! Localised lockdowns may still be used as part of the public health response in the new framework, and there may still be a need to use wider lockdowns (similar to the measures in the previous Alert Levels 3 or 4).

Testing, contact tracing and isolation will continue to be the key tools for the government to minimise any spread of the virus. And at all Traffic Light levels record-keeping and scanning will be required, whether a business is using vaccination passports or not.

Impact on Screen Productions & Businesses

The Traffic Light System will offer businesses much more flexibility and more certainty in regards to business continuity. COVID-19 restrictions within each level of the Traffic Light system are designed to encourage businesses to use vaccination passports (where only vaccinated staff, contractors and customers are allowed into a business or work site).

The app-based government vaccination passport system is currently in its final testing stage, and the final details are yet to be announced, but for all practical purposes it means this: If a production chooses to use vaccination passports, every person on a work site must prove they are vaccinated before being allowed on site. And the safety protocols for the job can be based on that extra level of protection.

For productions using vaccination passports there are no restrictions on numbers on a worksite. And Close Proximity work (make up, stunts, actor interaction, etc.) can happen at all levels, although with increasing risk minimisation tools (PPE, hygiene measures, testing, etc.) in place when moving to the higher levels.

Productions choosing NOT to enforce a vaccination passport system *may* have limits on numbers on site, and some locations may not be available to those productions. Close Proximity work is only allowed in the green level.

For persons who hold an official COVID-19 vaccine exemption issued by Ministry of Health Temporary Exemptions Panel, it is expected they will be able to obtain a vaccination passport that allows the same access as a vaccinated person. ScreenSafe will seek clarification on vaccine exemptions and the practical aspects for the workplace.

All productions must operate under the equivalent Traffic Light level for their specific region.

Please note that Inter-regional travel will be permitted at GREEN and ORANGE, but not at the RED level.

PS! Various industry groups are currently seeking long-term clarity on the rules for inter-regional travel for our industry. The exemption system so far has not been kind to our industry. And there seems to be little clarity regarding what applications are accepted vs. which are rejected.

The System in Practical Terms

The below guidance is the most likely implementation for our industry, both for vaccination passport and for non-vaccination passport productions.

GREEN

Community transmission will be limited, and COVID-19 hospitalisations will be at a manageable level.

Vaccination Passport Jobs

No limit to numbers on a controlled site

No physical distancing requirements

No face covering requirements, although some productions, crew or cast may still choose to use them

No restrictions on Close Proximity work

Non-Vaccination Passport Jobs

There *may* be limits to number on site (*TBC pending MoH/WorkSafe advice*)

Restricted access to indoor public venues (*TBC - pending final vaccination policies from individual councils*)

1m physical distancing requirement

Face coverings will be strongly recommended

Close Proximity work is allowed with PPE and hygiene protocols in place (as per current Close Proximity rules)

Surveillance testing should be considered

ORANGE

Increasing community transmission is putting pressure on our health system.

Vaccination Passport Jobs

No limit to numbers on a controlled site provided physical distancing requirements can be adhered to

1m physical distancing requirement

Face coverings will be strongly recommended, possibly mandatory

Close Proximity work is allowed with PPE and hygiene protocols in place (as per current Close Proximity rules)

Contactless food service on set

Surveillance testing should be considered

Non-Vaccination Passport Jobs

There *may* be limits to number on site (*TBC pending MoH/WorkSafe advice*)

Restricted access to indoor public venues (*TBC - pending final vaccination policies from individual councils*)

1m physical distancing requirement

Face coverings will be strongly recommended, possibly mandatory

Close Proximity work is NOT allowed

Surveillance testing should be strongly considered

Contactless food service on set

RED

Action will be needed to protect both at-risk people and protect our health system from an unsustainable number of hospitalisations.

Vaccination Passport Jobs

No limit to numbers on a controlled site provided physical distancing requirements can be adhered to

1m physical distancing requirement

Face coverings will be strongly recommended, possibly mandatory

Close Proximity work is allowed with STRICT PPE and hygiene protocols in place (as per current Close Proximity rules)

Surveillance testing should be strongly considered

Contactless food service on set

Non-Vaccination Passport Jobs

There *may* be limits to number on site (*TBC pending MoH/WorkSafe advice*)

Restricted access to indoor public venues (*TBC - pending final vaccination policies from individual councils*)

1m physical distancing requirement

Face coverings will be strongly recommended, possibly mandatory

Close Proximity work is NOT allowed

Surveillance testing should be strongly considered

Contactless food service on set