

Creative industries FAQs

Following recent changes to the COVID-19 regulations in Wales am I still able to film in Wales?

Filming (to include recce) can still take place in Wales, providing the production puts measures in place in accordance with Welsh law to minimise the risk of spreading coronavirus.

Productions should also ensure they are operating within the appropriate industry guidelines. This includes operating within the BFC Guidelines for working safely during covid-19 - <http://britishfilmcommission.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/British-Film-Commission-Working-Safely-During-COVID-19-in-Film-and-High-end-TV-Drama-Production-V.2.4-13-08-20.pdf>, the UK broadcasters: TV Production Guidance: Managing the risk of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in production making - <https://downloads.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/tv-production-guidance-managing-the-risk-of-coronavirus-in-production-making-v1.pdf> and the Welsh Government guidelines for the creative industries - <https://gov.wales/creative-industries-guidance-phased-return-html#section-44479>

Given the fast changing situation, we advise that you continue to monitor the Welsh Government website for any new announcements - <https://gov.wales/topic/980/latest>

Can I travel into Wales from outside of Wales to film?

Yes. Work is a reasonable excuse to travel into Wales. Similarly, people living in Wales can travel out of Wales for work purposes where this is necessary and they cannot work from home. However, we are asking everyone to think carefully about the journeys they take and the people they meet. We should all think carefully about where we go and who we meet because the more places we go and the more people we meet, the greater the chances there are of catching coronavirus. In particular, it is also sensible to avoid travelling to and from areas with a higher incidence rate if you can.

Guidance for [travelling safely](#) during the pandemic are available on the Welsh Government website.

What are the rules around Face Coverings?

Face coverings must be worn in all indoor public places. This includes on public transport and taxis, and in places where food and drink is served, other than when you are seated to eat or drink, as outlined in the guidance <https://gov.wales/face-coverings-guidance-public#section-52213>.

There is no universal face coverings guidance for workplaces because of the variety of work environments in different industries. If you work in an indoor public area, you will definitely have to wear a face covering (unless you have a reasonable excuse not to).

If you are filming in a public place that is closed to the general public at the time of filming it would not be mandatory to wear a face covering. However reasonable measures must still be maintained to minimise exposure to staff working on site.

What are cast and crews allowed to do off set?

In their own time, cast and crew must comply with Welsh law to prevent the further spread of coronavirus. Whether cast and crews are able to meet off set will depend on the alert level in Wales.

Regardless of the alert level, we are asking people to think about what is the most sensible thing for you to do to protect your family, friends and your community, rather than thinking primarily about what you are allowed to do. In particular, we ask you to:

- please try and be restrained in how many different people you see. It is better to see the same one or two people regularly than to see lots of different people occasionally;
- please maintain social distancing, including outdoors;
- please meet people outdoors rather than indoors where possible;
- avoid doing activities that might increase the risk of transmission (for example shouting to be heard over loud music, or singing in close proximity).

What is a key / critical worker?

A key worker or critical worker is a worker who is considered to provide an essential service or whose work is critical to the Covid-19 response. The term does not have general application but is used in specific circumstances to recognise where a worker should have access to specific entitlements.

The full list of key or critical workers in Wales can be found in the relevant WG guidance documents. In the context of journalists and broadcast media, key (critical) workers are defined as - *journalists and broadcasters covering coronavirus or providing public service broadcasting, to include those companies working for or on behalf of public service broadcasters.*

What is the law on travelling in Wales and in particular travel for work and travelling across borders – is this different for key workers?

Guidance on [travelling safely](#) during the coronavirus pandemic is available on the Welsh Government website.

Before your arrival in the UK, you must complete a passenger locator form and you must present these details on your arrival in Wales. This applies to both visitors and UK residents. There are also countries and territories with no self-isolation period on a return to Wales, this [list](#) applies from 11 July 2020. Unless you have visited or made a transit stop ([see link](#)) in any other country or territory in the preceding 14 days, you will need to self-isolate on your return to Wales. The UK Government is keeping the conditions in these countries and territories under weekly review, so it is best to check the list on a regular basis.

There are also groups of people who are exempt, these are highlighted within the [document](#), which currently include Film and TV cast and production crews. If you do need to self-isolate, information can also be found within this [guidance](#).

What is the position on accommodation? Can hotel or other accommodation be provided for key workers?

Whether hotels and accommodation are permitted to open in Wales will be dependent on the alert level, but measures must be in place to protect people from coronavirus <https://gov.wales/taking-all-reasonable-measures-minimise-risk-exposure-coronavirus-workplaces-and-premises-open>

Where the alert level requires accommodation to close, local authorities or Welsh Ministers can authorise or make a request for accommodation businesses to provide some other services whilst closed. Requests could, for example, include accommodating key workers such as – *‘journalists and broadcasters covering coronavirus or providing public service broadcasting, to include those companies working for or on behalf of public service broadcasters’*.

What do we do when maintaining a two metre distance is just not possible?

Welsh law requires all reasonable measures to be taken to maintain physical distancing (staying 2m apart) while working. Welsh Government [guidance](#) on this requirement acknowledges that *‘there are working environments where physical distancing is not possible – and in consequence there may be circumstances where few or even no reasonable measures can be taken. For example, in relation to the provision of public facing essential services (including operation and maintenance of Critical National Infrastructure), factory settings, construction sites, the provision of health and social care services and the production and distribution of food’*. This isn’t an exhaustive list.

This means that for a drama production all reasonable measures must be taken to ensure physical distancing wherever possible e.g. smaller crew, changes to layout, use of technology and plot changes. However, work can continue despite there being some situations where physical distancing cannot be maintained e.g. hair and make-up, key scenes essential to integrity of the plot. If possible other measures should be introduced to mitigate risks associated with close physical presence e.g. increased hygiene measures and provision of adequate supplies of hygiene products (automatic soap dispensers, paper tissues instead of towels, hand sanitisers etc.), use of personal protective equipment where possible and practical to do so (e.g. [face coverings](#)), testing of relevant cast and crew, minimising the time spent where physical distance cannot be maintained. Creative Wales recommend that a record be kept of all reasonable measures that have been considered and taken.

Can filming take place in people’s homes?

There are no regulations in place in Wales that specifically prohibit filming in people’s homes. Filming can therefore take place in homes in Wales providing there is full compliance with Welsh law. This includes a legal obligation and [guidance on taking all reasonable measures to maintain physical distancing](#) and taking steps to ensure

work is carried out safely, which will be particularly important when the work environment might be someone else's house or home environment. Should it not be possible to comply with the guidance to work in a safe manner, filming should not go ahead.

Further information for employers and employees on keeping safe in the workplace is available on the Welsh Government website through the following link - [Keep Wales Safe - at work](#) and in our own [creative industries guidance](#). These provide further information on actions to minimise transmission of Coronavirus in the workplace. The Welsh Government has developed guidance on working safely in other people's homes <https://gov.wales/guidance-working-other-peoples-homes>. Film crews are referenced as the type of worker that may need to enter other people's homes for work purposes.

Is there any guidance regarding ensuring cars carrying artists are compliant with the safety guidelines on limiting the transmission of the coronavirus in Wales?

Information on ways in which to reduce transmission of Covid-19 in taxis and PHVs is available via the following link <https://gov.wales/taxi-and-private-hire-vehicle-guidance>

The wearing of face coverings is now mandatory on public transport in Wales, this includes taxis and private hire vehicles (PHVs). Welsh Government recommends wearing a three layer face covering. Further information is available on [travelling safely](#) and the [mandatory use of face coverings](#).

When can I start organising and hosting live events in Wales?

The Coronavirus Regulations impose a number of restrictions on businesses and other services, including music venues. These restrictions vary depending on the severity of the coronavirus situation at a particular point in time.

If you are permitted to operate your business you must do so safely in a way that complies with any restrictions imposed by the Coronavirus Regulations, in addition to other legal obligations imposed on employers (such as health and safety legislation). Creative Wales is working very closely in collaboration with the music industry through the established stakeholder group, which represents all areas of the industry. The group has been extremely helpful in establishing a consensus view that the industry recognises it is likely to be some time before the sector is able to return to any form of normal activity. The sector is clear on the need for a long-term strategy for its survival, to address the impact of loss of earnings for a sustained period and to broaden on line training and tools. There is also recognition of the possible impact of 'audience confidence' even when restrictions are eased and venues are able to open. Additional concerns extend to the non-devolved issue of VAT on ticket sales and access to insurance for gigs.

We consider it unlikely that large gatherings and performances in public spaces will be able to go ahead until spring 2021.

The Welsh Government has published guidance on coronavirus and working safely in the performing arts industries - <https://gov.wales/rehearsing-performing-and-taking-part-performing-arts-guidance-phased-return>