



Advertising Producers Association



29th March 2021

Joint APA and BECTU Statement on COVID Testing

BECTU, The APA and their respective members are committed to safeguarding the health of everyone who attends a commercial shoot.

Please see [The APA COVID Shooting Guidelines](#) and [BECTU's COVID Guidance](#) for further advice.

1. COVID Testing

If the production company opts to test as per the [APA's testing recommendations](#) then testing should take place prior to the first day of work.

PCR tests are recommended for Heads of Department and for cast and crew members who will be in close contact during the production. The production company will pay the company to administer this testing.

This testing should be organised to make it as convenient for the crew member as possible.

There are generally 4 circumstances under which Productions will ask for crew to be tested.

- a. A medical technician travels to either the workplace or the home of the crew member to administer a test, at a time that is convenient for the crew member.
- b. The crew member administers a self-test using a self-test kit, which is sent to them by the production either by mail, by courier or by a production runner, to their home or to their workplace. The production then arranges and pays for the return of the test.
- c. The crew member is tested during the working day - be it prep, recce or shoot.
- d. The crew member is asked to travel to a destination of the production's choosing to undergo testing.
 - i. When arranging testing, Productions should take into account the convenience of the crew being tested.
 - ii. If the testing option is substantially inconvenient to the crew member - say they have to travel a significant distance on a non-shoot day - then the production company should discuss those arrangements with the crew member and consider compensating them for that time.
 - iii. If the crew member is required to take a day off from another engagement, it can be treated as a non-shooting day.

2. Positive Test Results

If a member of crew tests positive for COVID or is otherwise required to self-isolate for any of the reasons set out under "Health and Safety-General" on page 7 of the APA COVID Shooting Guidelines, then by law they must self-isolate and can no longer work.

In these circumstances, the crew member should be paid for any work they have done to date. Note, in this instance the crew member is not being cancelled by the production company but is unable to work.

If a crew member has to leave the production because they have been in close contact (as defined in the APA Guidelines) with someone who has tested positive and are therefore not able to work by law (i.e. they are not being cancelled by the production company) then they are not entitled to be paid.

If the entire production is postponed or cancelled as a result of COVID all crew will be paid cancellation costs as per the APA Guidelines.