

# ACTRA

## ACTRA Montreal Statement regarding the engagement of Performers during the COVID-19 crisis

COVID-19 presents unprecedented health risks for all workers in Quebec, including performers working under ACTRA contracts.

The Government of Quebec has shut down all non-essential businesses and services. It publishes and updates a list of those businesses and services deemed essential. As stated at [www.quebec.ca](http://www.quebec.ca): “The government announced the gradual reopening of various sectors and businesses. The reopenings, approved by public health authorities, will occur in phases according to the areas of activity and geographic zones.”

No ACTRA performer should be required to report to work (on set or in a studio) unless the Engager has obtained essential service/business recognition from the Government of Quebec and provided proof of same to ACTRA Montreal. Applications for such recognition may be submitted to the Government of Quebec [here](#).

As per the terms of ACTRA agreements and the [CNESST](#), Engagers must ensure a safe working environment whenever a performer is engaged. The safety and welfare of ACTRA performers (and all workers) must be an engager’s top priority.

Prior to production, Producers/Studios wishing to engage an ACTRA performer must contact ACTRA Montreal to provide proof of their essential service recognition and to discuss the measures taken to ensure worker safety (i.e. to provide the greatest assurance possible that no ACTRA performer will be exposed to COVID-19 while on the job).

ACTRA will require the following:

### **Minimum Health & Safety Protocols**

- Production must respect all health and safety guidance as issued by: [WHO](#), [Government of Canada](#), [Government of Quebec](#), [CNESST](#), [INSPQ](#), [City of Montreal Public Health](#)
- As per the CNESST, the [Producer must acknowledge its responsibility](#) for the Health and Safety of all employees
- A copy of the Producer’s “Best Practices Guideline” which must be forwarded to ACTRA. Such guideline must require implementation of Health Authorities’ common safety recommendations (i.e. maintaining a minimum distance of 2 metres between persons, frequent hand washing for at least 20 seconds, sanitization measures, etc.)
- The name of the individual(s) responsible for health and safety (i.e. the implementation of the “Best Practices Guideline”)

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Affiliated with the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC)  
and the International Federation of Actors (FIA)

**Branch Offices:** Vancouver • Edmonton • Calgary • Regina • Winnipeg  
Toronto • Ottawa • Montreal • Halifax • St. John’s

### **Minimum Production Safety Measures**

- Staggered call times (to ensure social distancing and proper sanitization between performances)
- Signage requiring hand washing upon arrival
- Ready access to warm/hot water, soap, anti-bacterial gels, etc.
- A supply of single-use masks and gloves
- Safe, clean waiting areas (2-metre distancing, disinfected as required)
- Compulsory use of masks by production staff (engineers, directors, reception, etc.)
- Mandatory wipe-down and disinfection of equipment between performances (mics, pop-filters, podiums, props, headphones, etc.)
- Closed sets/studios whenever possible (only essential persons present)
- Separate booths for performers (2-metre separation when working simultaneously)

The above measures represent a partial (non-exhaustive) list of ACTRA safety requirements and are supplemental to the health, safety and working provisions contained within ACTRA's collective agreements (such as, but not limited to):

- No reprisal against a performer who refuses a booking or leaves work due to health or safety concerns
- Applicability of Cancellation and Postponement fees as per section A19 and Article 12 of Appendix 20 in the Independent Production Agreement (IPA), Section 15 of the National Commercial Agreement (NCA), Section 18 of the Audio Code, and the relevant articles on Cancellation and Postponement in the applicable ACTRA Videogame Agreement(s)
- Applicability of Appendix 30 of the IPA and Appendix R of the NCA

ACTRA is committed to working with its partners to reopen our industries as soon as possible. During the COVID-19 crisis, the health and safety of performers is ACTRA's top priority.