

Technical Production Commission's COVID-19 Reopening Guides

Working at Height, In Grids, and Fly-Rail Operations

Overhead Rigging:

- Wear masks or cloth face coverings at all times when at height to reduce the possibility of aerosol transmission to those below. [1]
- Have ground crew wear hard hats during overhead work. The brim provides an additional barrier from overhead droplets. [2] Hard hats should be sanitized per CDC guidelines followed by hand-washing after removal of the hard hat. [3]
- Increase frequency and duration of breaks for those working at height to allow them time to go outside and remove their face covering to ease anxiety and comfort issues associated with long term mask-wearing, especially in environments with elevated temperature. [4] [5]
- Utilize communication devices such as walkie-talkies to aid in making communication possible as needed in situations where masks block the lips, such as communicating between the deck and the grid. [6]

Rigging Systems:

- To minimize potential transfer, consider the following strategies to reduce virus spread through contact:
- Disinfect rope locks, controllers, and other high touch surfaces [7] before and after each use. Provide hand-washing stations and/or CDC compliant hand sanitizer at each level of the system. [8]
- Avoid counterweight loading situations that call for multiple loaders and operators working at a single location. [9] Strategies include but are not limited to:
 - Distribute multiple hand-line operators to different levels as the venue allows
 - Utilize bull lines to control out of weight battens
 - Load arbors incrementally
 - Use mechanized or automated rigging when appropriate equipment and trained personnel are available.
- Designate worker groups when multiple weight loaders or operators working together is necessary, to reduce potential virus spread through contact per CDC and IATSE guidelines. [1] [2]
- For items such as operating lines and chains that are difficult to sanitize, utilize additional strategies to reduce virus spread through surface contact such as:
 - Minimize contact with lines as much as possible. [3]
 - Require loaders and operators to wash their hands before and after each operation. [4]
 - Assign specific banks of linesets to specific operators. [5]
- Follow Spot, Audio Mix, Stage Management, and other FOH positions:
 - Account for the relative position of workers to the audience when considering safe social distancing measures for audience seating. [6]
 - Install a solid floor or partition as a droplet barrier for positions in proximity to the audience to reduce the possibility of viral exposure. [7]
 - Designate multiple operators in one location as a worker group. [8]
 - Consider alternative communication methods, such as written communication or reducing background noise if masks make headset communications difficult. [9]

Personnel Lifts and Ladders:

- Limit access/use to a single person or worker group to reduce the possibility of contact transmission; add additional equipment and time to projects. [10]
- Sanitize all gates, safety bars, hand-holds, controls, etc. according to CDC guidelines before and after each person uses the equipment. [11]
- Provide hand-washing stations and/or CDC compliant hand sanitizer at each level of the system for permanent ladders, stairwells, and access points. [1]

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Resources:

1. www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html
2. Hard hats can prevent splashes, drips and or spills from touching your scalp. In addition, the brim helps to prevent spilled or splashed liquids from running into your eyes. Therefore, wearing the hard hat with the brim to the back renders this feature useless. www.optimumsafetymanagement.com/blog/are-hard-hats-necessary
3. www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html
4. www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html
5. www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress/
6. www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html
7. www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html
8. www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html
9. www.wengercorp.com/Lit/JR%20Clancy_Wenger/misc_docs/JRC_Cntrwt_Rigging_wo_Bridge.pdf

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