



INTERNATIONAL CINEMATOGRAPHERS GUILD

April 27, 2021

Notice from the Executive Board of IATSE Local 667:

Across Eastern Canada, COVID-19 cases are climbing and we have seen record levels of cases in almost every province. The new variant strains are proving to be hard to contain and the risk of contracting the disease is worse than ever. The rollout of vaccines will help, but any real impact is still months away. The film and television business has done a good job and with strong protocols in place the industry has had few shutdowns. This is changing as the number of crew members being quarantined is rising every week. We need to be vigilant and to do everything possible to keep our crews safe, and our industry working.

PPE is important and with social distancing it can help mitigate exposure. Testing is the real key to keeping cases off set. The faster positive crew members are identified, the quicker they can be isolated. This protects everyone. The Epidemiologists engaged by the IATSE have been making this point since last summer.

With this new third wave of cases and with the number of COVID-19 positives at record highs, the Executive Board of IATSE 667 feels further steps need to be taken to protect our members. ***The Board has unanimously agreed that the minimum number of tests for all IATSE 667 crew should be three times per week. All dailies must be tested before they work.*** The need to safeguard our members and their families is paramount. While we feel that all of the Zone A (or equivalent) crew should be tested at this level, we can only require that it apply to IATSE 667 members. IATSE 667 will monitor the provincial environments and will make adjustments to this new policy based on local COVID-19 conditions. We hope that as vaccines roll out the need for stringent protocols will start to relax.

The IATSE 667 COVID-19 documents will now reflect this requirement. For shows that have already signed our Collective Agreement, we strongly urge that this three times a week standard be adopted. We will also be requiring that N95 or KN95 masks be supplied when requested by Zone A (or equivalent) crew.

We know it is hard shooting in this COVID-19 environment and our goal is the same as everyone's, to keep our crews safe and to continue to work.

Sincerely,

David Rumley
Business Representative