



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

UPDATE #22

RETURN TO WORK SAFELY GUIDELINES (UPDATE 7-16-2020)

Dear Members,

Negotiations between the AMPTP and jointly the IATSE, DGA, SAG-AFTRA, Teamsters & Basic Crafts over safety protocols and issues related to COVID-19 are on-going. Progress is being made, but there are detailed issues still to address.

Until such time as the above-mentioned negotiations are concluded, we are dealing with any resumption of work on a case-by-case basis. There have been some post-production activities taking place here and there, and we have been reviewing safety protocols and stage diagrams (when applicable) and reaching out to the members who will be working at facilities on these projects to ensure their level of comfort and satisfaction with the safety details specific to their individual situation. We have also been involved along these same lines with the IATSE and other Locals for phasing in of pre-production and ultimately production and post on unscripted projects. We have all been working cooperatively together to assure the employers provide the safest working environments possible.

Once the negotiations conclude, you will, of course, be advised. Meanwhile, if you are contacted to return to a work environment, please reach out to us so we can assist you in navigating through everything.

While the pandemic is on-going many of you may be asked to resume or to continue working remotely. We are certainly aware this is not necessarily convenient for many of you for several potential reasons. At the same time, we understand why many of you would prefer to do so. Again, we will need to deal with any problems associated with this on a case-by-case basis. Please reach out to the staff if you have any concerns.

LOCAL 700 STAFF CONTACT INFO

Working remotely raises several economic-related matters:

1. What business-related expenses should be reimbursable by the employers? You can expect to be reimbursed for expenses that are necessary to perform your work and are also reasonable. This is governed by state and federal laws where there are not state laws specific to this. There are not set amounts of money or percentages attached to any specific expenses. I recognize this is not ideal, but as these are governed by laws and the union agreements, that is as it stands right now. You need to ask your employer to provide you with their employee expense policy which they are required to have, in advance, to avoid any out of pocket, unreimbursable expenses. **MORE DETAILS**

2. Are those reimbursements subject to taxes? **GENERAL GUIDELINES**

3. What is an equitable box rental amount? We encourage employers to provide the equipment necessary to do your jobs, but if you are providing your own equipment, seek an equitable box rental.

We are working diligently to establish some general guidelines to help set a standard for what is a reasonable amount of money depending specifically on what types of equipment you are providing. Some members have volunteered to help compile all of this, and we aim to have something more detailed out to you very soon. I know many of you are waiting for this information. This is an extremely important endeavor that can't be done hastily. There were many mixed and inconsistent results from the survey, so we are going at this from a new angle. Until these details become available, please reach out to a field representative if you are struggling with what is appropriate.

I will be back in touch soon. I hope you and your loved ones remain healthy.

Cathy Repola
National Executive Director

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