

Fondazione La Biennale di Venezia

Description of the containment measures established to combat the COVID-19 epidemic for the duration of the 77th Venice International Film Festival

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1. PREMISE

The health emergency underway requires the Fondazione La Biennale di Venezia, for the 77th Venice International Film Festival which will be held on the Lido di Venezia from 2 to 12 September 2020, to implement an internal safety management system capable of defining and enacting all measures necessary to contain the COVID-19 epidemiological emergency for the protection of all persons involved in various capacities or interested in participating in the activities programmed by La Biennale.

The Venice Film Festival is an “atypical” event compared to the festivals or events open to the public that are organized as a general rule. The individual activities that make up the programme of the Venice Film Festival, held prevalently in the Palazzo del Cinema, the Palazzo ex Casinò and the Hotel Excelsior, are of the “static” type in which participants are registered and where possible, seats are individually assigned upon reservation to see the films, participate in the press conferences and use the press room. The activities are also served by restaurants and bars located in the outdoor areas.

During the period of the Venice Film Festival, films are screened inside the screening rooms that make up the infrastructure of La Biennale, and include:

- SalaGrande;
- Sala Darsena;
- Sala Pasinetti,
- Sala Perla;
- Sala Volpi;
- Sala Casinò;
- Sala Perla 2 / Press room;
- Sala Giardino;
- Pala Biennale ;
- Cinema Astra movie theatre;
- Film Arena at the skating rink;
- Film Arena at the Giardini.

Inside the Palazzo ex Casinò, press conferences are organized in Sala Perla 2 and indoor spaces (equipped with pre-assigned tables and chairs) are placed at the disposition of the national and international press.

At the Hotel Excelsior, La Biennale organizes the “Film Market – Venice Production Bridge” which will include conferences, film screenings and “static” spaces with chairs and tables for the Cinema professionals. The Hotel Excelsior will also host spaces dedicated to the Regione Veneto, Cinecittà and other operators in the field.

The film screenings, especially the main screenings in the Sala Grande, are as usual preceded by the “Red Carpet”, where actors and personalities from the world of Cinema “walk the red carpet” before entering the screening theatre before the lenses of cameramen and photographers.

The outdoor area of the Venice Film Festival will feature service facilities for visitors and accredited professionals, such as restaurants and bars.

This document will describe the containment measures established by La Biennale di Venezia to combat the COVID-19 epidemic for the entire duration of the activities of the Venice Film Festival.

Given the specificity of the event, this document was developed in compliance with the decree *DPCM 11 June 2020* and on the basis of the instructions emanated by the Regione Veneto in the *ordinance of the President of the Regional Council n. 59 dated 13 June 2020, n. 64 dated 6 July 2020, n. 81 dated 31 July 2020 and ordinance n. 84 dated 19 August 2020 Urgent measures in the matter of containing and managing the COVID-19 virus epidemiological emergency. Further dispositions for persons entering from Countries that give rise to mandatory quarantine, Countries that give rise to a mandatory test to screen for SARS-CoV-2.*

The plan is an integration to the anti-terrorism security plan and includes the addition of a series of specific measures that must be adopted to contain the risk of infection.

The analysis of the Covid-19 risk in relation to the above-mentioned activities, from a procedural point of view, will therefore be addressed separately from the risk associated with the other two phases of Covid-19 risk at La Biennale:

- Exhibition installation and construction sites;
- Office work by the staff and collaborators of La Biennale.

These two aspects of the Covid-19 risk will be addressed separately in that the issues involving exhibition installation and construction sites must be addressed in compliance with the safety regulations for installation and construction sites titled Safety Plan in the phases of design and construction developed by La Biennale, which will be integrated with the Covid-19 Installation and construction sites Protocol developed by the companies operating in the area. For installation and construction sites the entity with which to negotiate any procedures to be enacted is SPISAL.

The presence of workers and collaborators in the activity areas will be governed by a specific in-house protocol developed by La Biennale. The in-house protocol for staff members and collaborators will be drafted on the basis of the results of the assessment of company Covid-19 risks for the activities of the Fondazione La Biennale di Venezia in its venues on the Lido, the Venice Film Festival area, and will be established in agreement with the representatives of the workers.

2. ANTI COVID-19 MEASURES

The area dedicated to the events of the Venice Film Festival includes:

- **Outdoor Festival Area, “public area”** delimited by n. 6 outside entry points from the street, n. 1 outside entry point from the lagoon at the Excelsior dock, n.1 entry point for the arrival of delegations at the dock of the Palazzo ex Casinò and n. 1 entry point from the street at the Excelsior beach. The entry points are also control points for the entry and exit flows of: visitors, guests and accredited professionals of the Venice Film Festival. The public area will also be



the site for restaurants (Terrazza Mediterranea and Lion's bar), bars (forecourt of Casinò and Garden) and relaxation areas for the public and accredited visitors.

- **“Venice Film Festival Perimeter”** which delimits an area accessible only to accredited personnel with a service pass or ticket. The area is managed from n.10 entry points controlled by Biennale staff members who will check tickets or passes and allow access to the Palazzo del Cinema, the Sala Darsena and the Palazzo del Casinò;
- **Screening theatres and internal infrastructures** for the film screenings located within the perimeter of the Venice Film Festival: Palazzo del Cinema (Sala Grande and Sala Pasinetti), Sala Darsena, Palazzo ex Casino' (Sala Perla, Sala Volpi, Sala Casino' , press conference room, Sala perla 2 , press room and photocall).
- **Temporary screening theatres, or theatres located outside the perimeter of the Venice Film Festival:** Sala Giardino in the forecourt of the Palazzo ex Casinò, PalaBiennale at the “Lele Berto” Rugby field in Via Sandro Gallo, the Film Arena at the skating rink in Via Sandro Gallo and the Cinema Astra movie theatre at S. Maria Elisabetta on the Lido di Venezia.
- **Hotel Excelsior** with the activities organized by La Biennale for the Film Market and other initiatives by the Regione Veneto and Cinecittà.

2.1 Access to the “Outdoor Venice Film Festival Area”

Access to the Outdoor Venice Film Festival area, as shown in the attached plans, will be handled from the entry points specified below:

- n.2 entry points from the street on Lungo Mare Marconi;
- n.1 entry point from the street on Via Quattro Fontane;
- n.1 entry point from the street in Via Candia;
- n.1 entry point from the street in Via Morosini;
- n.1 entry point from the street in Via Dardanelli;
- n.1 entry point from the lagoon at the Excelsior dock;

- n.1 entry point from the lagoon for delegation disembarkment Palazzo ex Casinò;
- n.1 pedestrian point of entry/exit Excelsior beach.

The entry points from the street, controlled by police authorities and by La Biennale security personnel, will be equipped with “new jersey” type barriers to protect access points and secure the area against terrorism. The entry points will also be equipped with thermo-scanner systems to measure the body temperature of every person entering the Area.

The following restaurants and bars will be available in the outdoor area of the Venice Film Festival:

- restaurant Terrazza Mediterranea;
- bar in the forecourt of the Palazzo ex Casinò;
- bar and pizzeria at the Garden;
- Lion’s restaurant and bar;
- bar inside the Palazzo del Cinema;
- private restaurant inside the Palazzo del Casino’;
- private bar on the terrace of the Palazzo del Cinema.

With the purpose of containing Covid-19, the measures established to protect “the Outdoor Venice Film Festival Area” and the activities are specified below:

- **Body temperature will be checked** for all persons requesting access to the Venice Film Festival Area, using thermo-scanners installed at the entry points from the street and at the entrance to the screening theatres outside the Venice Film Festival Area: Palabiennale, outdoor film arenas and the Cinema Astra movie theatre. Should a person’s body temperature be 37.5°C or greater, he/she will be accompanied to a waiting area and his/her body temperature will be measured again a few minutes later. Should the temperature still be 37.5°C or greater, access to the area will be denied to the person and he/she will be advised to contact the local health authorities or their personal physician.



- **Compliance with minimum social distancing** between the persons entering the outdoor Venice Film Festival area;
- **Hand sanitizing** at sanitizing gel distribution points. The areas will in fact be equipped with systems for dispensing sanitizing gel.
- **Obligation to wear a surgical or community mask that covers both the nose and the mouth** within the outdoor Venice Film Festival area.

The spaces where the Venice Film Festival events take place will be delimited as in past editions by a crowd-control security barrier consisting of physical and distancing barriers.

To avoid possible gatherings of the public to view the “red carpet” in front of the Palazzo del Cinema and in the other zones the actors will be walking through, such as the dock behind the Palazzo ex Casinò and the arrival area on the dock of the Excelsior or the automobile route along the Lungo Mare Marconi in front of the Excelsior, **it will be absolutely prohibited for the public to see or approach these areas and for this purpose tall barriers and structures will be installed** to completely block the public’s view of this area.

The public will be advised by appropriate graphic signage located outdoors of the obligation to wear a mask in the entire area of the Venice Film Festival. A specific notice explaining all the containment measures that must be complied with will be available to the public, to the operators and all personnel, distributed at the entry points and inside the Venice Film Festival areas.

For the peripheral screening theatres, entry points will be controlled and body temperature measured at the entrance to the Cinema Astra movie theatre on the Lido di Venezia, at the entrance to the PalaBiennale and the entrance to the Film Arenas.

2.1.a Access to the Red Carpet

Access to the “Red Carpet” is reserved for the actors, the film delegations and the audience of the Sala Grande.

The procedure specifically entails the following safety measures.

- **Photographers:** as in previous editions, photographers and cameramen are authorized to take position on the red carpet. The safety measures require them to stand at pre-defined numbered positions appropriately distanced and distributed along the entire front of the Palazzo del Cinema, and to wear a mask at all times;
- **Actors and delegations:** the actors and the delegations will arrive as usual on the “red carpet” in the automobiles of the sponsors, and must walk down the carpet wearing a mask and maintaining a physical distance of at least 1 metre.
- **Audience of the Sala Grande walking down the red carpet:** the audience must wear a mask at all times both outdoors and inside the screening theatre and maintain a social distance of 1 meter in the entrance queue. La Biennale will provide and put appropriate delimitations in place in order to create the queues and make it easier to respect social distancing.

Additional safety measures are as follows:

- Organization of an information system for the public, an info-point and baggage-check room;
- Video-surveillance system monitoring the entire area and creation of a control room from which to supervise and monitor the videocameras;
- Technical and logistical operations and management centre inside the Palazzo del Cinema throughout the period of the Festival;
- Predisposition of a system to inform the public;
- Creation of an external security facility to be used by police authorities on the forecourt of the Casinò;

- Health management and assistance System at the service of the Venice Film Festival, with the installation of a public health facility.

The police authorities will also establish an operative inter-force command centre open 24 hours a day in the area of the Palazzo ex Casinò.

The management of the restaurant and bar services located in the “Outdoor Venice Film Festival Area” will be entrusted by the Fondazione La Biennale di Venezia to third parties for the entire duration of the Venice Film Festival from 2 to 12 September 2020. La Biennale will provide a copy of the present anti Covid-19 protection plan to each manager, with a description of all the required containment measures and require that each individual manager accept and enforce the measures indicated by La Biennale and fully comply with the specific anti Covid-19 protocols in force when the activity is underway. In general the measures to be adopted will regulate:

- Table reservations;
- Use of a mask while waiting to enter the restaurant, even when outdoors;
- Registration and conservation of the names of patrons for 14 days;
- Measuring body temperature;
- Responsibility of the manager for sanitizing the spaces and areas;
- Hand sanitizing to be provided in specific dispensers.

2.2 Access to the perimeter of the Venice Film Festival

The “Perimeter of the Venice Film Festival”, located inside the “Outdoor Venice Film Festival Area” as indicated in the attached plans, is a control and security perimeter that grants access to the areas leading to the screening theatres, to the Palazzo del Cinema and the Palazzo del Casinò. Access to the Perimeter of the Venice Film Festival is controlled continuously 24 hours a day at secured entry points controlled by Biennale staff members.

Access to the areas within the Perimeter of the Venice Film Festival is reserved exclusively for persons with tickets, passes or badges emitted by La Biennale: accredited professionals, service personnel and film audiences.

Accreditation badges, passes and tickets will be checked at the entry points to the Perimeter by means of electronic reading systems and entry will be recorded (the reading of the badge or ticket will be conserved for at least 14 days).

Inside the Perimeter of the Venice Film Festival, wearing a mask is mandatory and social distancing must be respected at the entrances to the buildings, which will be properly equipped with barriers or tendiflex systems. Furthermore hand sanitizing will be required using the dispensers put in place by La Biennale.

2.3 Access to screening theatres and press conferences

With regards to the occupation level of the screening theatres, La Biennale will apply the measure indicated in Regional Ordinance n.59 dated 13 June 2020 which requires the application of seat separation measures in the theatre. This will entail a general reduction in seating capacity of 50%, bringing the overall number of seats available in all screening theatres from 6100 to approximately 3100 seats.

The areas inside the Palazzo ex Casinò dedicated to the press have been set up on the third floor of the Palazzo ex Casinò and primarily concern the press conference room (or screening theatre Perla 2) and the press room for the national and international press, equipped with tables and seating that must be reserved and are properly distanced and checked by the Biennale staff.

The safety measures for access to the screening theatres are summarized below:

- The public and accredited visitors and professionals must wear a mask at all times, even during the screening of the films; the same measure is to be applied during press conferences and while using the press room;



- All tickets, badges and passes will be checked at the entry points using an electronic/optical scanning system (the operator will be protected as required, and will use an optical sensing gun to scan tickets on paper or smartphones);
- The assignment of seats in the screening theatre for the Venice Film Festival audiences will be managed by La Biennale online with mandatory reservations. Seats will be numbered and entry will be organized in queues that will direct the viewers to their own seats in specific sections and subgroups of seats. Entry to the theatre will be regulated to the extent possible, and seating will begin with the seats farthest from the entrance;
- Accredited professionals may access screening theatres using their personal accreditation pass and reserving their seat ahead of time. All accredited visitors and holders of personal accreditation passes will be registered by Biennale personnel at the entry points, using an electronic registration system. Daily registration data will be conserved by La Biennale for at least 14 days. The entry of accredited visitors will also be organized in queues that will direct the accredited professionals to the specific section of the theatre corresponding to the respective entry points.
- The exit from the screening theatre will be regulated, to the extent possible, by sections and subgroups of seats under the supervision of the theatre attendants;
- Cleaning service for the indoor areas at the service of the Venice Film Festival will comply with the requirements of the attached protocol: *Report ISS Covid-19 n.5/2020 rev. 2. Instructions ad interim for prevention and for the management of indoor spaces in relation to the transmission of the virus SAR-COV-2 infection (version 25 May 2020)*;
- Sanitizing services for the screening theatres will include cleaning the seats and the areas/structures used by the public (handrails, door handles, etc.) at each change of film and sanitizing the screening theatre once a day in compliance with the specifications and products indicated in the attached protocol: *Report ISS Covid-19 n.25/2020. Recommendations ad interim for sanitizing non-health-related structures during the current Covid-19 emergency: surfaces, interior spaces and clothing. ISS Biocidi Covid-19 team (version 15 May 2020)*;



- Air conditioning and treatment systems will be subject to specific maintenance **that will include all the cleaning, maintenance and management procedures** required by the protocols for managing HVAC systems including 100% air change as stated in the attached protocol: *Protocol for reducing the risk of spreading the SARS-COV-2 virus in the management and maintenance operations for existing air-conditioning and ventilation systems – AICARR July 2020*;
- Where possible, separate routes will be established for entering and exiting the screening theatres, entrance will be subdivided into several queues associated with single and specific sections of theatre seating where possible;
- Management of the queues will be entrusted to security staff who will be responsible for monitoring social distancing and the use of individual protective equipment (surgical or community masks and the use of hand-sanitizing gel).

The activities of the “Film Market” will be organized at the Hotel Excelsior. The activities scheduled to take place inside the spaces of the Excelsior will be prevalently of the “static” type, with assigned seats, and will be monitored by La Biennale service staff who will daily register the names of all participants and will conserve the list of the people present for at least 14 days. There will be conferences and areas equipped with numbered tables and seats appropriately distanced to be used for meetings of two or at most three people. Access to these activities is reserved for accredited professionals only. Masks must be worn at all times in these areas and hands must be sanitized. La Biennale will provide sanitizing gel dispensers in all interior areas.

As for access of persons and use of the spaces and services offered by the hotel, reference should be made to the specific anti Covid-19 protocol developed by the Excelsior.

3. MANAGING THE ARRIVAL OF DELEGATIONS AND COLLABORATORS FROM ABROAD

The organization of the Venice Film Festival entails the presence and involvement of various subjects coming from European and non-European countries who in their

various capacities participate in the organization or fulfil specific duties as part of the programmed activities, such as:

- film delegations;
- accredited professionals;
- collaborators;
- actors and directors;
- prize-winners;
- jurors.

3.1 Persons arriving from Member States of the European Union, States not belonging to the European Union by part of the Schengen agreement (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Andorra, Principality of Monaco, Republic of San Marino and the Vatican City State

Persons who fall into this category must comply with the national and regional prescriptions and procedures in force;

3.2 Persons coming from countries other than those listed in point 3.1 staying no longer than 120 hours.

Persons who fall into this category must take a nose-and-throat swab for diagnosing the SARS-CoV-2 virus with an RT-PCR test (hereafter “swab”) within 72 hours before their departure for Italy, and must show a negative result. The result of the swab must be obtained from a laboratory/hospital/health structure authorized by the public health authorities in the country of origin. The original document certifying the results of the analysis must be provided.

Upon arrival in Venice, La Biennale will organize the administration of a nose-and-throat swab at the airport of Tesserà or in the area of the Lido di Venezia with results to be returned within 12/24 hours. Once the swab has been administered, with the required protective equipment (mask, sanitizing and contact tracing), the persons must

remain in the area of the Venice Film Festival activities until the swab returns a negative result, avoiding any gatherings with persons that do not belong to their own delegation.

3.3 Persons coming from countries other than those listed in point 3.1 staying longer than 120 hours.

Persons who fall into this category must take a nose-and-throat swab within 72 hours before their departure for Italy, which must return a negative result. The result of the swab must be obtained from a laboratory/hospital/health structure authorized by the public health authorities in the country of origin. The original document certifying the results of the analysis must be provided.

Upon arrival in Venice, La Biennale will organize the administration of a nose-and-throat swab at the airport of Tesserà or in the area of the Lido di Venezia with results to be returned within 12/24 hours. Once the swab has been administered, with the required protective equipment (mask, sanitizing and contact tracing), the persons must remain in the area of the Venice Film Festival activities until the swab returns a negative result, avoiding any gatherings with persons who do not belong to their own delegation.

At the end of the fifth day of their stay in the area of the Venice Film Festival, a second control swab will be administered under the supervision of La Biennale on the grounds of the Venice Film Festival area on the Lido di Venezia.

It is understood that all persons coming from countries on the blacklist will not be allowed to attend. It is also specified that reporting obligations upon entry into Italian territory from abroad, as required by art. 5 of the DPCM 07.08.2020, remain confirmed, and must be carried out by notifying the Prevention Department of the Local Public Health Authorities of reference. Furthermore, should symptoms compatible with COVID-19 arise, the obligation remains for everyone to report this situation promptly and to submit to self-isolation pending the consequent public health dispositions by the Public Health Authorities.

4. HANDLING OF POSITIVE CASES AND MEASURES OF PREVENTION

Should the swab performed in Italy following the procedure described above return a positive result, La Biennale will request that the person self-isolate at home or at the hotel where he/she is staying to comply with the requirements of the Local Public Health Authorities for handling persons testing positive for SARS-CoV-2.

5. HANDLING THE CONTACTS OF POSITIVE CASES

The actions by public health authorities to handle possible contacts of cases, which is the responsibility of the Local Public Health Authority of reference (through SISP – Public Hygiene and Health Service), will adopt a gradual and progressive approach, founded on the characterization of the risk associated with the type of contact, as detailed below.

Symptomatic close contacts and casual contacts

Following an epidemiological investigation conducted for each suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, all symptomatic close or casual contacts must be promptly tested, by the Local Public Health Authorities of reference, using a nose-and-throat swab diagnostic test with the purpose of identifying possible new cases at an early stage and reconstructing the chain of infection. The Local Public Health Authorities will issue an order for self-isolation and/or quarantine for a period of 14 days at the person's home or the hotel in which he/she is staying.

Asymptomatic casual contacts

Based on the type of contact, the Local Public Health Authorities of reference will assess whether to recommend self-monitoring while returning to normal community life or to order quarantine and diagnostic testing by means of a nose-and-throat swab.

6. ATTACHMENTS

- General plan of the areas affected by the Venice International Film Festival
- ISS Covid-19 report n. 5/2020 rev. 2
Instructions ad interim for the prevention and handling of indoor spaces in relation to the transmission of infection by the SAR-COV-2 virus (version 25 May 2020)
- Protocol for reducing the risk of spreading the SARS-COV-2 virus in the management and maintenance operations of existing air conditioning and ventilation systems – AICARR July 2020;
- ISS Covid-19 report n. 25/2020
Recommendations ad interim for sanitizing non-health-related structures during the current Covid-19 emergency: surfaces, interior spaces and clothing. ISS Biocidi Covid-19 team (version 15 May 2020).