

La Biennale di Venezia

Description of the safety measures developed to fight the COVID-19 epidemic during the 78th Venice International Film Festival

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1. PREMISE

The persistence of the public health emergency underway due to the COVID-19 pandemic caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, requires the Fondazione La Biennale di Venezia, for the 78th Venice International Film Festival which will be held on the Lido di Venezia from 1 to 11 September 2021 (with a preview on August 31st), to implement an internal safety management system capable of determining and implementing 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 inside 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 and reservations required 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 theatres that constitute the infrastructure of La Biennale, and include:

- Sala Grande;
- Sala Darsena;
- Sala Pasinetti,
- Sala Perla;
- Sala Volpi;
- Sala Casinò;
- Sala Perla 2 / Press conference room;
- Sala Giardino;
- Pala Biennale ;
- Cinema Astra movie theatre;
- Arena Lido – skating rink;
- Teatro Piccolo Arsenale.

Inside the Palazzo ex Casinò, furthermore, 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 feature lectures, film screenings and a “static” space with chairs and tables for 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 theatre under 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 instructions contained in the national and regional provisions issued in relation to the evolution of the epidemiological scenario, and lastly, on the basis of the Legislative Decree dated 23 July 2021, n. 105 “Urgent measures to address the COVID-19 epidemiological emergency and for the safe exercise of social and economic activities”. (21G00117) (GU Serie Generale n.175 del 23-07-2021).

The Plan is an integration to the security plan of the Festival and introduces 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, because the issues involving installation construction sites must be addressed in compliance with the safety regulations for construction sites titled ‘Safety Plan in the phases of design and construction of installations’ developed by La Biennale, which will be integrated with the Covid-19 Protocol for Installation construction sites developed by the companies operating in the area. For construction site work, any procedures to be enacted must be negotiated with SPISAL, the entity of reference.

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 the company Covid-19 risks based on the activities of the Fondazione La Biennale di Venezia

in its venues on the Lido, the Venice Film Festival premises, 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 of 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 that may be accessed only by accredited visitors and personnel with a service pass, subscription or ticket, who can display a COVID-19 Green Pass certification or an equivalent document at the safety control point, proving full vaccination, complete recovery from infection or a negative result of a PCR or antigen Covid-19 test taken within the preceding 48 hours. The area is managed from n.13 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 photocalls).
- **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 Arena Lido at the skating rink in Via Sandro Gallo, the Cinema Astra movie theatre at S. Maria Elisabetta on the Lido di Venezia and the Teatro Piccolo Arsenale in Venice. In these theatres located outside the perimeter of the Festival, controls will be in place to verify possession of the Covid-19 Green Pass certification or equivalent document proving full vaccination, complete recovery from Covid-19 infection or a negative result of a PCR or antigen Covid-19 test taken within the preceding 48 hours.
- **Hotel Excelsior** with the activities organized by La Biennale for the Film Market and other initiatives by the Regione Veneto, Cinecittà Luce, Fondazione Ente dello Spettacolo. Controls will also be in place at the Hotel Excelsior entrances to check the validity of accreditations and possession of a Covid-19 Green Pass certification or equivalent document proving full vaccination, complete

recovery from Covid-19 infection or a negative result of a PCR or antigen test taken within the preceding 48 hours.

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 Lungomare 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 to disembark delegations at 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, pizzeria and self-service cafeteria at the Garden;
- Lion’s restaurant and bar;
- bar inside the Palazzo del Cinema;
- private restaurant inside the Palazzo del Casinò’;
- private bar on the terrace of the Palazzo del Cinema.

With the purpose of containing the Covid-19 virus, 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 premises, using thermo-scanners installed at the entry points from the street and at the entrance to the screening theatres located outside the Venice Film Festival Area: Palabiennale, Arena Lido, Cinema Astra movie theatre and Teatro Piccolo Arsenale. 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.**

- **A Green Pass must be displayed** to access the internal areas of the Venice Film Festival, or lacking the Green Pass, a negative result from a PCR or antigen test taken within the previous 48 hours. Every accredited visitor, visitor, staff member, collaborator, public or service provider must possess a copy of a valid Green Pass (paper or digital) and display it for authorisation to enter the premises.

In order to facilitate the procedures to verify the Green Pass, holders of Accreditation or Service passes may validate their passes or accreditation badges by displaying a valid Green Pass document to the Biennale offices who will then authorize use for access and confirmed health certification. Those who do not have a valid Green Pass must display the negative result from a PCR or antigen test taken within the previous 48 hours to gain access to the internal areas or the screening theatres.

- **Compliance with minimum social distancing** of at least one metre between the persons entering the outdoor Venice Film Festival area;
- **Hand sanitizing** at sanitizing gel distribution points. The areas will be equipped with systems for dispensing sanitizing gel.
- **Obligation to wear a surgical mask** inside the buildings or the premises of the Venice Film Festival or whenever the conditions for a gathering arise (for example, in a queue) or in the case in which it is not possible to comply with minimum social distancing, even outdoors.

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 Lungomare 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.

Should it become impossible in the Outdoor Area of the Venice Film Festival to maintain social distancing of at least 1 meter, in queues awaiting food service, in queues to enter the screening theatres etc., surgical masks must be worn outdoors as well. The public will be advised by dedicated graphic signage. A specific notice explaining all the containment measures with which the public, the cinema

professionals and all staff members must comply, will be posted at the entry gates 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, at the entrance to the Arena Lido and the Teatro Piccolo Arsenale.

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 developed for them 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 on the “red carpet” as usual in the automobiles provided by the sponsor, and will be allowed to walk down the carpet without a mask while maintaining a physical distance of at least 1 metre. For larger delegations, in the case that the minimum social distance requirements are not met, members must wear a mask for the entire time they walk down the runway. At the conclusion of the red carpet, the mask must also be worn to enter the Palazzo del Cinema and be seated in the theatre;
- **Audience of the Sala Grande walking down the red carpet:** the audience must wear a surgical mask inside the theatre and maintain a social distance of at least 1 meter in the entrance queue. Should minimum social distancing requirements not be observed, the entire audience will have to wear a mask for the entire duration of their walk down the red carpet. La Biennale will make certain to put appropriate demarcation lines in place in order to create queues and facilitate 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 oversee the premises and monitor the video-cameras;
- technical and logistical operations and management centre inside the Palazzo del Cinema throughout the period of the Festival;
- installation of a public information system;
- 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 management of the restaurant and bar services located in the “Outdoor Venice Film Festival Area” will be outsourced by the Fondazione La Biennale di Venezia to third parties for the entire duration of the Venice Film Festival. 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 enforce the measures indicated by La Biennale and fully comply with the specific anti Covid-19 protocols in force while the activity is underway.

In general the required measures will regulate:

- table reservations;
- use of a mask while waiting to enter the restaurant, even outdoors in the case of gatherings or non-observance of minimum social distancing;
- measuring body temperature;
- sanitizing the spaces and areas, under the responsibility of the manager;
- 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 monitored 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 issued 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 scanning systems and entry will be recorded (the scan 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 observed at the entrance to the buildings, which will be appropriately 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 occupancy rate of the screening theatres, La Biennale will organize seating in the theatre by applying seat separation measures as indicated in the note by the Ministry of Health dated 12 August 2021, prot. 0036545 in response to the note from the Direzione Regionale Prevenzione Sicurezza Alimentare, Veterinaria dated 29 July 2021 prot. N. 340527. This will entail a general reduction in seating capacity of 50%, lowering 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 verified by the Biennale staff.

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

- for admission into the indoor spaces and the screening theatres, the public, the accredited visitors and operators, after passing through the “Venice Film Festival Perimeter” and therefore having displayed a valid personal Green Pass or Covid-19 antigen test taken within the previous 48 hours, must wear a mask at all times until they are seated in the theatre and keep it on for the entire duration of the screening and as they exit the area; the same measure is to be applied during press conferences and for the use of the press room;
- all tickets, badges and passes will be checked at the entry points using an electronic/optical scanning system (the operator will wear protective gear as required, and will use an optical sensing gun to scan printed tickets or smartphones);
- the assignment of seats in the screening theatres for the Venice Film Festival audiences will be managed by La Biennale online with mandatory reservations. Seats will be numbered and admission will be organized in queues that will direct the viewers to their own seats in specific sections and subgroups of seats. Entry into the theatre will be regulated as far as possible, with seating beginning with the seats farthest from the entrance;
- accredited professionals may access screening theatres using their personal accreditation pass and their seat reservation. All accredited visitors, holders of personal accreditation passes, will be registered by Biennale personnel at the entry points using an electronic scanning system. Daily registration data will be conserved by La Biennale for at least 14 days and will be provided upon request, if necessary, to the competent public health authorities, for the required contact tracing. The entry procedure for accredited visitors will also be organized in queues that will direct the accredited visitor to the specific section of the theatre corresponding to the respective entry points;



- exit from the screening theatre will be organized, as far as 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, viewers will be divided upon entering 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 compliance with social distancing and the use of individual protective gear (surgical 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 spaces.

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 Hotel.

3. COVID-19 TESTING SERVICE ORGANIZED AT THE VENICE FILM FESTIVAL PREMISES

With the purpose of facilitating access to the premises and services of the Venice Film Festival, La Biennale, with the collaboration of the Italian Red Cross, will set up Covid testing units open from August 31st to September 11th 2021 to provide rapid antigen testing.

All persons who do not have a valid green pass in the categories of accredited visitors, businesses or the public must necessarily take a Covid test every 48 hours. These categories are eligible to use the Covid rapid antigen testing service, making the required reservation on the web portal of La Biennale di Venezia, and following the instructions provided and communicated during the reservation process.

In particular, there will be n. 4 HUBs for Covid-19 testing:

- HUB Lungomare Marconi;
- HUB Garden;
- HUB Procuratorie;
- HUB Excelsior.

Each HUB will be operated by medical staff to administer the tests and by administrative staff to manage the test results and registrations.

There will be a total number of 12 testing stations distributed among the 4 HUBs to administer the COVID tests with a service capacity of approximately 2400 tests per day.

For accredited visitors and holders of a service pass who display a valid Green Pass or equivalent document, or as specified in the notice by the Director General of the General Directorate for Health Prevention – Ministry of Health dated 30/07/2021, it will be possible to activate the pass for access in such a way as to enable a quick control of admissions into the internal premises and the screening theatres. Those who do not have a valid Green Pass or equivalent document, must necessarily take a COVID-19 rapid antigen test every 48 hours with a negative result to display for admission, lacking which or in the case of a positive result, admission will be unconditionally denied.

4. 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.

All those who must arrive and/or leave from the areas of the Venice Film Festival are required, before organizing their journey, to consult the website created by the Ministry of Internal Affairs “Viaggiare Sicuri” at the Internet address: [://www.viaggiare Sicuri.it/](http://www.viaggiare Sicuri.it/) and carefully follow the instructions regarding travel for work, study and research.

In order to facilitate departure from the Lido after participating in or attending the Venice Film Festival, La Biennale will organize, through September 12th 2021, a Covid antigen or PCR testing service with reservation required, at the conditions indicated and communicated at the moment the reservation is made, for all those who need this service before their departure.

5. HANDLING OF POSITIVE CASES AND MEASURES OF PREVENTION

Should the rapid antigen test performed in the HUB return a positive result, the person:

- will be isolated in the security area set up as required at the HUB;
- will be offered a PCR test (at conditions to be agreed upon with La Biennale for accredited visitors or persons who have used the COVID-19 testing services);
- the person will be invited to return to his/her own home or hospitality structure in order to follow the rules prescribed by the Local Health Authorities for the management of persons positive for the COVID-19 virus.

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;