Production Activity on Public Property in New York City During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Note: This FAQ is current as of April 29, 2022. The Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment (MOME) will be updating this FAQ to reflect the latest information available. Please check MOME’s website (www.nyc.gov/mome) and nyc.gov/health/coronavirus for updates. Where there is a discrepancy between this FAQ and more current guidance, the more current guidance applies.

A. HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

Q1: What are the current legal requirements for COVID-19 vaccinations in New York City?

A: Generally, workers in New York City who perform in-person work must show their employer proof that they have received a COVID-19 vaccine. There is an exception for performing artists. For more information, please visit the NYC Health Department’s webpage.

Productions may continue to require their performing artists to be vaccinated if they wish.

Q2: Where can my employees, cast, and crew get vaccinated or a booster shot in New York City?

A: Visit the NYC Vaccine Finder for a list of convenient locations.
Q3: What are the current legal requirements about masks/face coverings in New York City?

A: As of February 10, 2022, masks/face coverings in New York State (including New York City) are optional. Productions may continue to require their cast and crew to wear masks and face coverings if they wish.

Q4: Does the Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment have any special rules about masks/face coverings with respect to film permits?

A: No. But productions are allowed to have special rules about masks/face coverings for their employees.

Q5: Are City government employees (e.g., MOME Field Reps, NYPD Officers, FDNY inspectors) required to wear masks/face coverings when they come to my set?

A: It depends.

City employees are required to wear masks/face coverings when interacting with the public indoors. City employees are not required to wear masks/face coverings when interacting with the public outdoors.

You may request that a MOME employee wear a mask or face covering while on your set outdoors.
Q6: Are City government employees (e.g., MOME Field Reps, NYPD Officers, FDNY Inspectors) required to be vaccinated when they come to my set?

A: As of September 13, 2021, City government employees are subject to a mandatory vaccination requirement, pursuant to Executive Order 78 (Aug. 31, 2021).

B. MOME FILM PERMITS

Q1: Is the MOME Commissioner’s Directive that limited the number of people on set and imposed other safety requirements still in effect?

A: No. All MOME Commissioner’s Directives were repealed on July 7, 2021.

Q2: Are streets with Open Restaurants off limits for filming?

A: No, but pursuant to NYC Department of Transportation requirements, permit activity must be at least 15 feet away from Open Restaurants. MOME may impose additional limits on filming near Open Restaurants to make sure it is safe and does not interfere with activity of the restaurant.

Q3: Are streets designated for Open Streets off limits for filming?

A: Streets designated for Open Streets are off limits for filming on the days that the Open Street is in effect.
Q4: Are there any general restrictions on parking or the use of both sides of the street?

A: Film Permits may provide for held parking for equipment vehicles on one side of each approved block, including roadways adjacent to a film production facility, in MOME’s discretion. Film Permits may provide for held parking for picture on both sides of one approved block for each exterior practical location. Final approval is at MOME’s discretion.

Q5: Are there any general restrictions on craft services on public property?

A: No craft service activities, including tents, tables, and chairs, on sidewalks or curb lanes anywhere; however, food trucks may be permitted. (No buffet-style catering or craft services is allowed on any outdoor public property.)

Q6: Where can I find New York City’s regulations covering Film Permits?

A: The regulations covering film permits are in Title 43, Chapter 9 of the Rules of the City of New York (43 RCNY Chap. 9) and additional requirements are in the Code of Conduct.

Q7: Why did MOME deny a request in my Film Permit application?

A: MOME has authority to deny a Film Permit application for any reason listed in 43 RCNY section 9-02(b)(7); MOME staff has the
discretion to deny a permit application (or require a change to a permit application) if any of those reasons exist.

43 RCNY section 9-02(b)(7) provides that MOME may deny a permit if any one or more of the following issues exists:

   a. conditions exist that may pose a danger or a threat to participants, onlookers or the general public;
   b. the location sought is not suitable because the proposed use cannot reasonably be accommodated in the proposed location;
   c. the date and time requested for a particular location is not available because (i) a Film Permit has previously been issued for such date and time, or (ii) the location, date, and time has already been requested by another applicant, or (iii) another City agency has issued a permit for such date or time;
   d. MOME has concluded, based on specific information, that the applicant is unlikely to comply with the material terms of the requested permit;
   e. use of the location or the proposed activity at the location would otherwise violate any law, ordinance, statute or regulation;
   f. use of the location would interfere unreasonably with the operation of City functions.

Q8: If I have questions about this FAQ, who may I contact for help?

A: Please call the Film Office at (212) 489-6710.