



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Note: This FAQ is current as of July 13, 2021. This is a rapidly changing situation and 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 frequently 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: Where can I find the rules about face coverings and social distancing in New York State?

A: New York State's [rules about face coverings and social distancing are in Title 10 of the Codes, Rules, and Regulations of the State of New York Subpart 66-3](#). In general, anyone who is not fully vaccinated must wear a face covering when they are not able to maintain at least six feet of distance from other persons (not including members of the person's household). Please see the rules for additional details.

Q2: What are the State's requirements specifically for media production during the COVID-19 pandemic?

A: As of June 15, 2021, the [New York State Department of Health Interim Guidance for Media Production During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency \("NYS Production Guidance"\)](#) is optional. This guidance is archived on the [New York Forward archive webpage](#).

- The guidance encompasses "all activities undertaken in motion picture, music, television, and streaming productions on set, on location, or at any production or recording site." In addition, the guidance applies to still photography, according to the [New York State Empire State Development Corporation Business Reopening Wizard](#).



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Q3: Does the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment have any special rules about face coverings with respect to film permits?

A: No. Follow the State rules.

Q4: Are face coverings required for cast members who are acting and must be within six feet of each other for the scene?

A: Unvaccinated cast and crew members must wear face coverings. However, unvaccinated cast members may temporarily remove face coverings "during performances or rehearsals, or when it interferes with a core activity such as hair, makeup, or wardrobe." Unvaccinated cast members must don face coverings as soon as practicable after the activity. (See page 3 of [the New York State Department of Health Interim Guidance for Media Production during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.](#))

Q5: Do I have to offer face coverings to employees at my expense?

A: Yes. [See Title 10 of the Codes, Rules, and Regulations of the State of New York § 66-3.1\(b\)](#) for details.

Q6: Am I required by law to have a safety monitor on-site?

A: No. This is no longer a requirement.

Q7: Am I required by law to post a COVID-19 safety plan at the filming location?

A: No. This is no longer a requirement.

Q8: Does my production need to submit the New York Forward Safety Affirmation with the film permit application?

A: No. This is no longer a requirement.

Q9: Am I required by law to administer regular COVID-19 tests to crew cast and crew?

A: No. This is no longer a requirement, but unvaccinated cast and crew members are strongly encouraged to get regular COVID-19 tests.

Q10: Am I required by law to maintain a screening log?

A: No. This is no longer a requirement.

Q11: Where can cast and crew get a vaccination?

A: Visit the [NYC Vaccine Finder](#) for a list of convenient locations.



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Q12: What are the state rules about capacity and media production activity?

A: There are no longer capacity limits that are different from the normal occupancy limits.

Q13: Are NYC employees (e.g., MOME Field Reps, NYPD Officers) required to wear masks when they come to my set outdoors?

A: NYC employees are not required to wear masks when they are outdoors if they are fully vaccinated. Unvaccinated NYC employees are required to wear masks at all times when interacting with the public.

B. MOME FILM PERMITS

Q1: Are streets designated for Open Culture activities off limits for filming?

A: No. [Streets designated for Open Culture](#) are not reserved exclusively for Open Culture Events. Such streets are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

- Film Permittees should consider the potential impact of amplified sound from Open Culture activities near the desired filming location and plan accordingly.

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. Starting August 2, 2021, 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.



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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 \(43 RCNY Chap. 9\)](#).

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