

Filming in Mississauga FAQs

When did filming reopen and were all jurisdictions immediately open to filming?

Ontario is gradually reopening businesses, services and public spaces on a regional basis. Our province's reopening is being guided by a three-stage framework that outlines the principles we are using to reopen businesses, services and public spaces.

Stage One of the Province's re-opening plan took effect on May 19, 2020. This stage included the opening of film and television post-production, visual effects and animation; sound-recording, publishing and distribution; and book and periodical production, publishing and distribution.

Stage Two took effect on Friday June 12, 2020. This stage introduced a new, regional approach to reopening, based on trends of key public health indicators outlined in the framework. Stage Two includes all remaining film and television production activities; subject to maintaining physical distancing between individuals on set whenever possible. Most regions, including the entire Greater Toronto Area are now permitted to resume film activity.

Allowing film and television activities to resume at the onset of Stage Two signals great confidence in the ability of the motion picture industry to produce informed and thoughtful protocols for reopening. (*Ontario Creates*, <https://digitallibrary.ontariocreates.ca/DigitalLibrary/CovidUpdate.aspx>)

What are the permitted hours of filming?

Hours of filming will be limited to regular hours from 7:00am-11:00pm, Monday through Saturday. At this time, we are not issuing permits beyond these hours. Exemptions will be considered at the second phase of the Film & Television Office reopening plan.

Do any limitations apply when filming on public property?

Publicly-owned locations will be assessed and permits will be issued on a case-by-case basis.

The locations selected will need to be able to safely accommodate a production while observing health protocols including social distancing and sanitation standards. Mississauga's Film Office staff will also be paying attention to parking requirements, intermittent traffic and pedestrian control requests, and ensuring adequate space for physical distancing for cast and crew.

What type of health protocols apply when filming on-location?

Filmmakers are required to comply with health protocols outlined in the Ontario Health and Safety Act, Section 21 released on June 25, 2020. These orders are subject to further amendment. The latest version will always be available from the Ontario government at www.filmsafety.ca.

Current orders outline requirements on film productions regarding workplace social distancing, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), regular sanitation and employee testing. The OHS Act Section 21 guidelines do not limit the size of productions in terms of people, beyond what is safe and practical for social distancing in a confined space.

Who will enforce health protocols on set?

Film productions are strongly encouraged by industry leaders and labour unions to designate a COVID-19 Safety & Compliance Officer. The safety officer can be any appropriate individual of authority employed and trained by the production company. The safety officer should be on set whenever possible and be responsible to ensure that all cast and crew adhere to Public Health safety guidelines.

What protections exist for communities that host filming and members of the cast and crew?

To obtain a permit, filmmakers are required to confirm they will comply with health protocols outlined in the Ontario Health and Safety Act Section 21 released on June 25, 2020 found at www.filmsafety.ca. These orders currently outline strict requirements on production regarding workplace social distancing, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and regular sanitation and employee testing. The protocols do not limit the size of productions in terms of people, beyond what is safe and practical for social distancing in a confined space.

In addition, several sets of guidelines have been developed by the film, television and commercial production industry directly for their crew based on the provincial guidelines.

Are there limitations to number of cast or crew members that can be on location?

Provincial health protocols do not limit the number of cast and crew that may be present on location although the filming of large crowd scenes is strongly discouraged. Practical limits apply based on the location being used and the ability of production to accommodate social distancing requirements.

Please see the latest Provincial health guidelines as they pertain to filming at www.filmsafety.ca.

Do the Provincial and Regional health protocols apply to student film productions?

Yes, Provincial and Regional health protocols apply to all types of filming.

Who can we contact if we see productions not complying with guidelines?

Please report filming activity that is not in compliance to the Ministry of Labour by calling 1-877-202-0008 or emailing webohs@ontario.ca

Has the process for obtaining a film permit changed due to COVID?

Productions must still apply for a permit and submit all necessary documentation. Some of the document templates have changed but overall the process is very much the same. Payments can be made by credit card over the phone by appointment; finalized permits will be sent by email.

Who can I contact for further questions about filming in Mississauga?

For general information about filming in Mississauga, please see the Mississauga Film & Television Office at www.mississaugaculture.ca/film or contact them at 905-615-3200 ext 4114 or film.office@mississauga.ca