

Local Filming Restrictions for Production

Atlanta

Status: Georgia's stay-at-home order was removed on April 30, 2020, except for those over the age of 65 or with vulnerable health conditions, who remained under the order until June 12. Businesses must continue to follow sanitation and social distancing rules until at least June 30, with more information on the restrictions available [here](#).

The status of on-site filming varies depending on jurisdiction, with information available [here](#) and [here](#). Gov. Kemp shared best practices for film and television production [here](#), though they are non-binding.

Film Permits: Permits are issued on a municipal level. Counties and cities processing film permits in Atlanta are listed below, with more information available [here](#).

- Cherokee: Open for film requests and currently updating permit applications.
- Fayette: Currently processing film permits.
- Fulton: Some cities in Fulton County are processing film permits.
- Gwinnet: Currently processing film permits.
- City of Atlanta: Accepting film permit applications, though filming is not allowed in city owned buildings or parks. Any filming must abide by the state's regulation of 10 people or less.
- Georgia state parks and properties are accepting applications and processing permits.

Social Distancing: Social distancing is required and face coverings are recommended in public.

Travel Restrictions: No travel restrictions exist currently.

Austin

Status: Texas entered Phase III of the state's reopening plan on June 3. Gov. Abbott released an [executive order](#) outlining the details. Within Phase III, on-set and on-location media productions can operate, but must comply with state recommended safety guidelines addressed [here](#). These guidelines include maintaining 6 feet of distance between individuals and restricting indoor personnel to 50% of the building's capacity.

Film Permits: Film permits are only required for filming done on public property. Permits are issued by a number of different entities, a list of which can be found [here](#). The city of Austin is issuing permits and allowing filming, as long as the required state guidelines are followed.

Social Distancing: Face coverings are recommended in public.

Travel Restrictions: No travel restrictions exist as of May 21.

Chicago

Status: Chicago has recently moved into the "Cautiously Reopen" phase of its five-step COVID-19 reopening plan. All film production activities must follow the [guidelines](#) set by the city of Chicago. These include maintaining social distancing whenever possible, limiting the work force to 10 people or less, and ensuring appropriate hygiene practices.



Film Permits: [The Chicago Film Office](#) began issuing permits on June 15, but only for crews of 10 people or less.

Social Distancing: Physical distancing is required and face coverings must be worn outside of the house. More information can be found [here](#).

Travel Restrictions: There are no travel restrictions currently in place.

Los Angeles

Status: California is in Stage II of its reopening plan, which has ended the stay-at-home order. Counties are able to decide how fast they move through the stage, with information about the variance between jurisdictions found [here](#). On-site filming has been prohibited in Los Angeles since March 20, 2020, but is set to reopen June 15. It is not yet clear which locations in Los Angeles county will be open for filming on that date. The order can be found [here](#).

Film Permits: Film permits applications reopened June 15.

Social Distancing: Face coverings are required in public.

Travel Restrictions: No travel restrictions exist.

Miami

Status: The majority of Florida, including Miami, is in Stage I of the state's reopening plan. Film Florida released a set of [recommended guidelines](#) for film production, though they are non-binding.

Film Permits: The city of Miami is not currently granting film permits. Additionally, all existing permits have been revoked. Information regarding Miami film permits can be found [here](#). Miami-Dade County, however, is issuing permits on a case-by-case basis. Permits may take longer than usual to be approved. Updates for Miami-Dade can be found [here](#).

Social Distancing: Social distancing of 6 feet between individuals is required. Where social distancing is not possible, facial coverings must be worn as discussed [here](#).

Travel Restrictions: Only travelers from New York, New Jersey and Connecticut must self-quarantine for 14 days or the length of their visit, whichever is shorter. The quarantine restriction on travelers from Louisiana has been lifted.

New York City

Status: New York City began Phase I of its reopening plan on June 8. This phase limits reopening to retail, construction, manufacturing and wholesale trade. The rest of New York is either in Phase I or II of the state's reopening plan. The entertainment industry is not set to reopen until Phase IV.

Film Permits: Permits will not be granted until at least June 30, 2020, except for film permits for the news media. Updates can be found [here](#).

Social Distancing: Social distancing is required whenever possible, and facemasks must be worn at all times outside of the house.

Travel Restrictions: No travel restrictions exist currently.

San Francisco

Status: San Francisco has split Phase II into three stages: 2A, 2B and 2C. As of June 15, the city entered Stage 2B.

Film Permits: San Francisco has begun processing film permits in accordance with Order of the Health Officer [guidelines](#):

- Crew and personnel must be limited to 10 people
- People on location must comply with social distancing, face covering and sanitation requirements
- If filming indoors, the location must be closed to the public

It takes approximately four days to process a permit. All permits issued by SF Recreation & Parks have been cancelled through June 15, with the expectation that they will continue to be cancelled for the rest of June.

Social Distancing: Six feet of social distancing is required between individuals. Face coverings are also required when shopping, taking transit or getting health care.

Travel Restrictions: No travel restrictions exist currently.

Santa Fe

Status: New Mexico continues to experience community spread of the virus, and people are urged to stay home unless absolutely necessary. The latest Public Health Orders can be found [here](#).

Film Permits: Film permits are not currently being processed in New Mexico. More information can be found on the [New Mexico Film Office](#) website.

Social Distancing: Social distancing and face coverings are required in public.

Travel Restrictions: Most air travelers are required to self-quarantine for 14 days. There are a limited number of exceptions, as discussed [here](#).

Seattle

Status: On June 1, 2020, Governor Inslee released [Safe Start Washington](#), a phased approach to reopening Washington State. Each county will move through the phases at their own pace, subject to approval by the secretary of Health. County status updates can be found [here](#). Seattle is currently in a modified phase I.

Film Permits: At this time, the City of Seattle is not issuing film permits. Updates can be found [here](#).



Social Distancing: Social distancing is required and face masks are highly recommended when out in public. Employers are required to provide face coverings for employees, who must wear them unless [exempted](#) [p. 5-6].

Travel Restrictions: No travel restrictions exist currently.

Washington, DC

Status: The District of Columbia is currently in Phase I of their [ReOpen Plan](#). Phase I limits activity of non-essential media production, with guidance found in the [Mayor's Order 2020-067](#).

Film Permits: Based on the mayor's guidelines, there are strict criteria that must be met in order for a film application to be submitted:

- The cast and crew is comprised of fewer than 10 people
- No cast or crew will be travelling into the district from outside the DMV region
- The production does not involve talent performing within 6 feet of each other
- There must not be any requests for production vehicle parking
- It does not require the supervision or support of any District of Columbia public safety agency
- There is no requirement for street closures or traffic control
- A plan for on-set safety and social distancing is submitted

Only if all the above criteria are met will the [film permit application](#) be considered by the DC Office of Cable Television, Film, Music and Entertainment. Currently, these restrictions are set to continue until July 24.

Social Distancing: Face coverings are recommended for anyone older than the age of 2, as discussed [here](#).

Travel Restrictions: No travel restrictions exist currently.

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