

# Motion Picture Production COVID-19 Requirements

## Summary of changes as of January 21, 2021

- Differentiates between non-represented and represented talent. For represented talent, the production must develop and follow a safety plan approved by the association or union representing talent on the production.

The motion picture industry is permitted to operate, provided all requirements in this document are met. The term *motion picture* is inclusive of all sizes and types of production including corporate content for both internal and external use, advertising of any kind, feature films, shorts, and television. Motion picture is defined as a recorded audio-visual production intended for distribution to the public for exhibition in public and/or private settings by means of any and all delivery systems and/or delivery platforms now or hereafter known, including without limitation, screenings in motion picture theaters, broadcasts and cablecast transmissions for viewing on televisions, computer screens, and other audio-visual receivers, viewing on screens by means of digital video disc (DVD) players, video on demand (VOD) services, and digital video recording (DVR) services, direct internet transmission, and viewing on digital computer-based systems which respond to the users' actions (interactive media).

A motion picture production company must adopt a written procedure that is at least as strict as the requirements in this document and that complies with the appropriate safety and health requirements and guidelines established by the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries and the Washington State Department of Health.

Prior to recommencing on-site services, all motion picture production companies are required to develop at each establishment, a comprehensive COVID-19 exposure control, mitigation, and recovery plan which must be adhered to. A site-specific COVID-19 monitor shall be designated at each location to monitor the health of individuals and enforce the COVID-19 job site safety plan. A copy of the plan must be available at all locations and available for inspection by state and local authorities. Failure to meet this requirement may result in sanctions up to, and including, license suspension.

## **Safety and Health Requirements**

All motion picture production companies have a general obligation to maintain a safe and healthy workplace in accordance with state and federal law and safety and health rules for a variety of workplace hazards. Employers must specifically ensure operations follow the main Labor & Industries COVID-19 requirements to protect workers. COVID-19 workplace and safety requirements can be found [here](#). Additional information is available at [Novel Coronavirus Outbreak \(COVID-19\) Resources](#) and [Paid Leave under the Washington Family Care Act and the Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#)

Motion picture production company must ensure strict adherence to all measures established by the Governor's guidance, the Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Prevention: General Requirements and Prevention Ideas for Workplaces](#), and the [Washington State Department of Health Workplace and Employer Resources & Recommendations](#) (DOH).

Motion picture production company specific requirements for all phases:

1. Non-represented talent (from Labor & Industry's [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Common Questions Regarding Worker Face Covering and Mask Requirements](#)): Reporters, on-camera anchors/talent, and speakers on camera or in front of a crowd may remove their cloth facial covering or mask for the time they are speaking only. A shared podium or equipment should not be touched without being sanitized after each person has used it. Proper social distancing of at least 6 feet between all people must be maintained. All other employees, including camera operators and production staff, must wear masks or face coverings when not working alone.
  - a. Talent may be closer than six feet but must have a physical barrier between them at all times (such as plexiglass.)
  - b. To accommodate "over the shoulder" film angles, actors can be closer than six feet if all performers are masked except for the one performer delivering lines in the scene.
2. Represented talent:
  - a. The production must develop and follows a safety plan approved by the association or union representing talent on the production.
  - b. The production must report in advance to its respective county health department the dates when filming will begin.
3. Catering: Please follow Department of Health's [Dining Area Closures: Guidance for Food Establishments](#)
4. Hair/makeup: Please follow guidance for [Personal Services](#)
5. Construction activity: Please follow guidance for [Construction](#)
6. Back-office staff: Please follow guidance for [Professional Services](#)

**No motion picture production may operate until they can meet and maintain all the requirements in this document, including providing materials, schedules and equipment required to comply. No reopening inspections are required prior to a motion picture reopening provided they meet and maintain all requirements in this document.** All issues regarding worker safety and health are subject to enforcement action under L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH).

- Employers can request COVID-19 [prevention advice and help](#) from L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH).
- Employee Workplace safety and health complaints may be submitted to the L&I DOSH Safety Call Center: (1-800-423-7233) or via e-mail to [adag235@lni.wa.gov](mailto:adag235@lni.wa.gov).
- General questions about how to comply with agreement practices can be submitted to the state's Business Response Center at <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/how-you-can-help/covid-19-business-and-worker-inquiries>.
- All other violations related to Proclamation 20-25 can be submitted at <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/report-safe-start-violation>.