

**Ministry of Heritage,
Sport, Tourism and Culture
Industries**

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**Ministère des Industries du
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September 4, 2020

**Re: accessing private testing for COVID-19 in order to help facilitate the
restart of film and television production in Ontario**

Film and television productions [are allowed to resume](#) in Ontario so long as they follow public health requirements and have health and safety protocols in place to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. Regions began moving to Stage 2 on June 12, 2020, and all regions of the province have now achieved Stage 3 reopening. Film and television production activities are now permitted to resume across the province.

Information about Ontario's management of COVID-19 and guidance for the public can be found at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/>. In addition, the Ontario Film Commission's services continue to be available, and a new return to work website titled [Ontario – Ready to Roll](#) has been created to provide key resources in one place, including a list of licensed private community laboratory providers.

The Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries has been made aware that some film and television productions require testing of asymptomatic individuals involved in the production as a condition of union agreements, insurance agreements, and/or a company's internal health and safety policies. These productions may therefore inquire about COVID-19 testing capacity through a private mechanism.

The Ministry of Health has allowed licensed private community laboratory providers to conduct polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests. Film and television productions who wish to arrange their own private testing regime should contact a private, licenced clinical laboratory authorized to perform this testing.

Pursuant to Reg. 683 of the Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act (LSCCLA), licensed laboratories are obligated to report communicable diseases, including COVID-19, to local public health units for case management and contact tracing, as required under the Health Promotion and Protection Act (HPPA). Protocols related to testing of asymptomatic individuals in workplace settings where a confirmed case has been identified are outlined in the [provincial guidance document](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kevin Finnerty".

Kevin Finnerty
Assistant Deputy Minister