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December 14, 2020

FROM: Kevin Finnerty, Assistant Deputy Minister, Heritage, Tourism and Culture Division

SUBJECT: Clarification of Rules for Film and Television Production in Ontario's COVID-19 Response Framework

I am writing to clarify the rules for film and television production under the [COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open](#).

The Framework takes a gradual approach that includes introducing preventative measures early to help avoid broader closures and allow for additional public health and workplace safety measures to be introduced or removed incrementally. It categorizes Ontario's public health unit (PHU) regions into five levels: Green-Prevent, Yellow-Protect, Orange-Restrict, Red-Control, and Grey-Lockdown being a measure of last and urgent resort. Each level outlines the types of public health and workplace safety measures for businesses and organizations. These include targeted measures for specific sectors, institutions and other settings.

[O. Reg. 363/20: Stages of Reopening](#) under the [Reopening Ontario \(A Flexible Response to COVID-19\) Act, 2020](#) sets out the current zones for individual PHUs. [O. Reg. 364/20: Rules for Areas in Stage 3](#) provides the requirements for PHUs that are in the Green-Prevent, Yellow-Protect, and Orange-Restrict Zones. [O. Reg. 263/20: Rules for Areas in Stage 2](#) provides the requirements for PHUs that are in the Red-Control Zone. [O. Reg. 82/20: Rules for Areas in Stage 1](#) provides the requirements for PHUs that are in the Grey-Lockdown Zone.

As film and television productions operate as workplaces and may be required to film in a variety of locations, film and television production activities are permitted to take place at locations (i.e., sets) that are otherwise closed to the public under the regulations noted above. Where work (film and television production activities) is being carried out in such locations, the capacity limits specified in the regulations for organized public events and social gatherings under Ontario's COVID-19 Response Framework do not apply. However, these activities are subject to the general compliance provisions specified in the regulations, which include provisions for maintaining two metres of physical distancing from others, the use of personal protective equipment or face coverings, with exceptions as permitted for those performing or rehearsing in a film or television production. For film and television production businesses located in Grey-Lockdown zones, a COVID-19 safety plan is required.

Film and television production activities and supporting activities, such as hair, makeup and wardrobe, are permitted across the province and in all zones, provided that the activities are conducted in accordance with all applicable regulatory and other public health requirements and restrictions.

In Red-Control and Grey-Lockdown Zones, the following specific restrictions apply:

- No studio audiences may be permitted to be on the film or television set.
- The set must be configured and operated in a way as to enable persons on the set to maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from other persons, except where necessary for the filming of film or television production.
- Persons who provide hair and make up services must wear appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Singers and players of brass or wind instruments must be separated from any other performers by plexiglass or some other impermeable barrier.

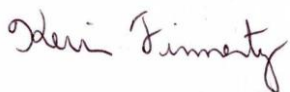
Film and television productions that provide food or beverage options to workers should review and follow the applicable regulatory requirements for restaurants, bars, food trucks, concession stands and other food or drink establishments.

In addition, film and television production activities must operate in accordance with all applicable laws, and in compliance with the advice, recommendations and instructions of public health officials, including any advice, recommendation or instructions on physical distancing, cleaning, disinfection and workplace screening.

The [Section 21 Film and Television Health and Safety Advisory Committee](#) of the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development has published guidelines to productions to help identify and mitigate potential workplace risks related to COVID-19.

I hope this provides clarification of rules for film and television production under Ontario's COVID-19 Response Framework.

Sincerely,



Kevin Finnerty
Assistant Deputy Minister
Heritage, Tourism and Culture Division