



Westminster City Council COVID-19 Filming Guidelines

The look and feel of the city has significantly changed over the past few months, as the council has provided additional space for cyclists and pedestrians to safely support the easing of the lockdown and welcome people back to central London.

In response to these changes, we have reviewed the way we manage events and filming on streets and in parks to meet government and industry guidance and to provide a safe environment for the public.

By submitting a filming application, you agree that your production will adhere to the following guidance as a minimum.

General guidance

1. The production must comply with:
 - [COVID-19 Guidance for Location Filming in London](#), Film London
Visit filmlondon.org.uk/resource/code-of-practice
 - [Working Safely During COVID-19 in Film and High-end TV Drama Production guidance](#), British Film Commission
Visit britishfilmcommission.org.uk/guidance/regarding-covid-19-coronavirus
 - The latest [UK Government Guidance](#) on COVID-19
Visit gov.uk/coronavirus
2. Your risk assessment and method statement must include a full assessment of COVID-19 risks for your production at **each location**
3. All crew and equipment must remain within an agreed filming area that is clearly marked and uses COVID-19 signage
4. The filming area must be two metres away from other people
5. A free-flowing public thoroughfare of over 2.5 metres must be maintained. Additional barriers or removable markings can be used to indicate a two-metre distance from the working area to the public
6. Cast, crew and contractors involved in the production must be aware of their responsibilities regarding the implementation of the risk assessment

By submitting an event or filming application, the organiser accepts that activity may be cancelled without notice due to circumstances outside of our control and that all fees are chargeable.

Crew size

7. Cast and crew will be limited to **no more than 7** people on a street or in a park at any one time
8. Applications for crews larger than 7 can be considered where the applicant can provide detailed documentation demonstrating how the current guidance will be adhered to. This documentation must also include access for businesses and members of the public as per point 5 above. At least 5 working days notice is required for crews larger than 7 and may be longer depending on the application
9. You do not need to apply if you are filming with hand-held equipment and a cast and crew of no more than three people

Locations

10. Streets with temporary measures in place such as wider pavements, pedestrian areas and cycle lanes will not be available for filming during business hours until further notice
11. Soho is temporarily unavailable for filming due to road closures and other temporary measures that are in place
12. Lincoln's Inn Fields remains available as a Unit Base
13. Parking suspensions are limited in some areas.

Timescales

14. You should allow additional planning time to safely plan your shoot
15. We strongly advise that a site visit is carried out in advance of submitting your application to check the suitability of your proposed location.

Documents

The following documents should be included at the time of application where possible. Applications received without this documentation will require extended planning time from the timescales published

- You must submit a location specific risk assessment and method statement including a full assessment of COVID-19 specific risks.
- A plan of your filming area showing that the required distances are possible.
- An image of the proposed filming area taken from your site visit.
- A signage plan
- Contact details including name, role and mobile phone number for a COVID-19 responsible person and a designated on-site contact.

Useful links

- [Film London COVID-19 Guidance for Location Filming in London](https://filmlondon.org.uk/resource/code-of-practice) – visit filmlondon.org.uk/resource/code-of-practice
- [UK Government Guidance](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) - visit [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)
- [BFC Working Safely During COVID-19 in Film and High-end TV Drama Production guidance](https://www.britishfilmcommission.org.uk/guidance/regarding-covid-19-coronavirus) – visit [britishfilmcommission.org.uk/guidance/regarding-covid-19-coronavirus](https://www.britishfilmcommission.org.uk/guidance/regarding-covid-19-coronavirus)
- [All UK Government guidance with regards to Working Safely During Coronavirus COVID-19](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19) - visit [gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19)
- [TV Production Guidance: Managing the Risk of COVID-19 in Production Making](https://downloads.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/tv-production-guidance-managing-the-risk-of-coronavirus-in-production-making-v1.pdf) – visit downloads.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/tv-production-guidance-managing-the-risk-of-coronavirus-in-production-making-v1.pdf
- [APA Covid-19 Shooting Guidelines](https://www.a-p-a.net) – visit [a-p-a.net](https://www.a-p-a.net)
- [Westminster Reopens](https://www.westminster.gov.uk/westminster-reopens) – visit [westminster.gov.uk/westminster-reopens](https://www.westminster.gov.uk/westminster-reopens)