

**Arts, Culture and Events Sector COVID-19 Q&A
(from sector meeting on Thursday, May 20)**

Performing Arts

Q: Will a controlled hotel/worksite only isolation be possible (similar to Worksafe in NB) for performers/artists entering the province once it is open to such.

**A: Nova Scotia's reopening will be slow and steady.
A reopening plan will be unveiled at the media briefing today at 3pm.**

Q: Are artists allowed to gather in groups of 5 or less to film a show? Clarify the current restriction of 5 – can artists rehearse/film if under the limit of 5?

A: A virtual event can take place with a maximum of 5 people. Please tune in today – as this could change, as a reopening plan will be unveiled at the media briefing today at 3pm.

Q: Can a student, teacher, camera person and accompanist (max 5 participants) all gather masked and socially distanced for a graduation concert?

A: A virtual event can take place with a maximum of 5 people. Please tune in today – as this could change, as a reopening plan will be unveiled at the media briefing today at 3pm.

Q: Why is film able to continue filming but performing arts cannot rehearse?

A: We have taken this concern forward and would encourage you to tune into the media briefing today at 3pm.

Screen Nova Scotia has developed strict guidelines for operation of the film sector in consultation with Labour and Advanced Education. You can view those guidelines on Screen Nova Scotia's website. Part of their guidance documents ensure protocols like physical distancing, testing and masking.

Q: With regards to planning live performance events this summer, could you please speak to events that are being planned for outdoors (rather than in a standard theatre venue), and what type of regulations and contingencies we should be planning for (knowing of course that everything and anything can change with this virus)?

A: The Events NS team at CCH is developing specific guidelines for outdoor events. These guidelines are in the final stages of approval. Reopening Nova Scotia and

increasing gathering limits will be slow and steady Please tune in today –as a reopening plan will be unveiled at the media briefing today at 3pm.

Q: What is Nova Scotia's version of a "One Dose Summer" is. When our population hits 85% vaccine rate, what is the expectation at that point for live arts (both indoors and outdoors) – both in terms of company size as well as audience size?

A: CCH is working with Public Health on a reopening plan that would consider the rate of vaccination and epidemiology. Details were announced today.

Q: Do you feel we will return to similar guidelines as those put in place last June, with 50% of capacity vs 200 patrons vs the capacity that can be socially distanced. As a compound question, will performing arts spaces be aligned with bars, restaurants and casinos, all of which have similar patron density and many more touch points.

A: Yes – that is our hope. We will have a staged approach, similar to what we did last summer. However, this summer, we may be able to have more relaxed restrictions. CCH is working with Public Health on a reopening plan that would consider the rate of vaccination and epidemiology. Details were announced today.

Q: If we have 4 staff in their offices, and 5 empty studios, can we facilitate studio use at 1 person per studio on top of our 4 staff in office in order to allow our regular renters into the studio safely? Please note these renters would be taking a class or teaching a class via Zoom so there would never be the need for more than one person per studio.

Answer: You are permitted to provide one on one training sessions – ensuring proper physical distancing is in place.

Film

Q: Is the complete ban on travel into NS be included in the restrictions up to June 9?

A: The ban on travel into Nova Scotia will likely be in place, but CCH is working with Public Health on a reopening plan that would consider the rate of vaccination and epidemiology. There are exemptions to the travel ban, more information can be found at <https://travel-declaration.novascotia.ca/en>.

Q: Will film workers entering NS that have been vaccinated need to quarantine for 14 days?

A: Yes.

Q: When will travel with 14-day quarantine open up again?

A: This will depend on our rate of vaccination across Canada and our epidemiological picture over the next two months. CCH has worked with Public Health on a reopening plan and travel will be addressed.

Q: Would vaccinated individuals have an increased chance of success in their application for exemption?

A: At present vaccination is not part of the exemption granting process. This could change and we will seek direction from Public Health.

Q: Can you provide an overview of what happens to our applications for Travel Exemption Letters once they arrive in your office?

A: We will need to get back to you on this one, but please feel free to reach out directly to Susan or Chris.

Q: Can you provide a clear timeline with respect to the turnaround of applications?

A: We try to process applications as quickly as possible and prioritize productions based on the timelines submitted.

Q: Will your office be prioritizing applications for productions currently shooting versus productions that are in pre-production?

Answer: Yes, we understand the urgency around getting approvals for productions underway.

Q: Is there a specific person in your office charged with reviewing the applications? If so, can we communicate directly with this person?

A: Susan Jeffries or Chris Shore are your point people. The process involves a number of different government departments including the Department of Health and Wellness, but we ask that you start with staff at CCH.

Q: As the number of COVID cases come down, will we see the restrictions with respects to essential workers ease?

A: CCH has been working with Public Health on a reopening plan that would consider the rate of vaccination and epidemiology. Details were announced today at a 3pm media briefing.

Q: Is your office able to make a statement to the public advising that film and television production is permitted to occur. This would help ease the anxiety folks feel when we are shooting in their neighborhoods.

A: We can share this idea with our communications team.

Q: Will the Nova Scotia government remove the application process for any film and television crew and performers, travelling from outside Canada, and let these Federally approved Temporary Foreign Workers with permits into the province.

A: The health and safety of Nova Scotians and anyone coming into our province is our top priority. We appreciate the work of our film and television sector, but the process put in place is designed to keep us all safe. We hope to slowly ease restrictions as our vaccination rates increase and our Covid-19 cases go down.

General

Q: Why have those businesses that support events and provide services to events and those who create events been left out of the recent support programs? (The reason we have been told is because we are not specifically named in the health order, but by the very nature of the gathering limits we are shut down. To many of these businesses are on the brink of bankruptcy and there really is no sight of when we can be back in full operations)

A: We understand this has been a difficult year for many businesses. We encourage you to continue to work with Events Nova Scotia staff who are building a recovery plan for events.

Q: If we hit 75% of vaccine coverage, both shots, can we expect going back to normal? no masks, no social distancing, large gathering?

A: CCH is working with Public Health on a reopening plan that would consider the rate of vaccination and epidemiology.

Q: Will rapid testing continue through the summer?

A: Yes.

Q: How many phases will be in the reopening/timeline?

A: A reopening plan will be unveiled at the media briefing today at 3pm

Q: What will the timeline be for opening to visitors from outside the Maritimes into Nova Scotia?

A: This will be an Atlantic Canadian summer. Please see the province's restriction recovery plan.

Q: When will the Atlantic bubble be reinstated?

A: A reopening plan will be unveiled at the media briefing today at 3pm

Day Camps

Q. What would the epidemiology need to be for in person camps to be considered -will students have to wear masks?

A. The hope is to be able to open day camps this summer. In terms of planning, the existing Return to Day Camp Guidelines are a good place to start. [COVID-19-Return-to-Day-Camp-Guidelines.pdf \(novascotia.ca\)](#) These guidelines contain masking guidance which stipulates:

“Staff are required to wear a non-medical mask while inside when within 2 metres of campers and other adults. Consistent with school settings, campers in grade 4 and up are also required to wear a non-medical mask inside. Masks can be removed when campers are eating or drinking, engaged in physical activity, or where 2 metres of physical distancing can be maintained”

Q. What will the cohort size be?

A. Under the Return to Day Camp Guidelines, the cohort number is 15. Day camps currently can't operate because of the provincial shut down and restricted gathering

limits. The Day Camp cohort could change depending on the epidemiology and the reopening plans.

Q. Any new restrictions on singing or physical activities?

A. Currently, these activities are not allowed under the Health Order but there are no new restrictions.

Q. Vaccines for 12+; what is the timeline for that? What is the acceptable practice for mandating vaccination for student participants?

A. Vaccines for 12 and over are currently open. At this point, organizations would not be able to mandate that participants have received vaccinations.

