

## **TIFF UPDATES PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR FESTIVAL TIFF TO REQUIRE PROOF OF VACCINATION OR NEGATIVE COVID TEST TO GAIN ENTRY TO ALL FESTIVAL VENUES**

**TORONTO** – TIFF announced today that beginning on September 9, 2021, Festival staff, audience members and visitors entering TIFF Festival venues from September 9 to 18 will be required to show either proof they have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or proof that they have tested negative for COVID-19 within 48 hours prior to entering any TIFF venue.

TIFF Festival venues include TIFF Bell Lightbox, Roy Thomson Hall, the Visa Screening Room at the Princess of Wales Theatre, Scotiabank Theatre Toronto, the Cinesphere Imax Theatre and the West Island Open Air Cinema at Ontario Place. This protocol does not extend to the Visa Skyline Drive-In and RBC Lakeside Drive-In at Ontario Place where audiences will be in their cars.

“TIFF has taken great care and consideration in implementing these TIFF specific protocols to mitigate risk to audiences and guests attending TIFF,” said Joana Vicente and Cameron Bailey, TIFF Co-Heads. “We have relied on municipal and provincial medical direction and advice on rapid testing and we expect this will provide another level of clarity and comfort for all 2021 Festival goers.”

Along with TIFF’s new announcement, TIFF is also reiterating previously announced COVID safety measures:

- Masks are required at all TIFF Festival venues. Audience members and visitors will not be permitted entry into the venue without a mask. Where an audience member or visitor is unable to wear a mask due to health reasons, TIFF will provide them with a face shield as an alternative. If the audience member or visitor does not wish to wear a face shield, they will be denied entry into the venue and will be given a refund for their ticket.
- Media outlets who are invited to attend red carpets and who will be interacting with talent on the carpet will be required to wear a mask, be tested every 48 hours and provide proof of a negative COVID test.
- There will be no printed tickets or passes; access to all TIFF Festival venues will require a mobile ticket.
- There will be no rush ticketing or indoor lineups at any TIFF Festival venues.
- There will be no concessions sold at indoor TIFF Festival venues. The drive-ins are the exception.

TIFF is a charitable organization with a mission to transform the way people see the world through film.



The Government of Canada opened its borders for non-essential travel from American citizens and permanent residents on August 9, 2021, and plans to open to citizens of any country on September 7, 2021, provided that the domestic epidemiologic situation remains favourable, and that visitors have been fully vaccinated with Government of Canada-approved vaccines (Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech, Janssen - Johnson & Johnson - AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD) at least 14 days prior to entering Canada. Those meeting these requirements can travel to Canada without having to quarantine, including the elimination of the three-night hotel quarantine policy. As of August 22, 73.7% of Canada's eligible population is fully vaccinated, one of the highest vaccination rates in the world. Toronto boasts one of the highest percentages of fully vaccinated citizens in North America with 74.9% of the eligible population completed as of the same date.

As a result of the opening of the border and increased capacities in cinemas in Ontario, TIFF has added to its list of venues to accommodate a number of additional in-person Public and Press & Industry screenings. TIFF Festival venues include TIFF Bell Lightbox and marquee venues the Visa Screening Room at the Princess of Wales Theatre and Roy Thomson Hall, Scotiabank Theatre Toronto, and the Cinesphere IMAX Theatre at Ontario Place, plus outdoor screening venues at Ontario Place Festival Village, including the Visa Skyline Drive-In, RBC Lakeside Drive-In and the West Island Open Air Cinema. Press & Industry screenings will be held at the Scotiabank Theatre and TIFF Bell Lightbox. Public in-person screenings will have limited Press & Industry access.

Additionally, Public digital screenings will be programmed on digital TIFF Bell Lightbox for the accessibility of festival-goers, but are limited to Canadian audiences. The TIFF Digital Cinema Pro platform will host digital Press & Industry screenings, as well as the TIFF Industry Selects market for industry buyers. Films available to Press & Industry on TIFF Digital Cinema Pro will be accessible to delegates worldwide, however, some exceptions may occur where the film rights holders have not authorized an online screening in selected regions. The TIFF Bell Digital Talks platform will host a variety of Public and Press & Industry talks, including the In Conversation With... talks series, the Industry Conference and Press Conferences.

TIFF continues to work closely with the Province of Ontario, the City of Toronto, and public health officials on the safe execution of the Festival, with its number-one priority being the health and well-being of both Festival filmgoers and residents of the community. To help ensure the safest possible experience, TIFF has once again partnered with Medcan, a global health care leader providing medical expertise, consultation, and health inspiration to achieve its mission to help people "Live Well, For Life." Based on the pillars of evidence-based care, exceptional client service, and the latest in technology, Medcan's team of over 90 physicians supports employee health care across the continuum of health, including its "Safe at Work System," which helps organizations navigate the pandemic.

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Detailed protocols and procedures for Public, Talent, Studios, Stakeholders and other TIFF attendees can be found at [tiff.net/covid-19](https://tiff.net/covid-19). TIFF continues to work closely with the Province of Ontario, the City of Toronto, and public health officials on the safe execution of the Festival, with its number-one priority being the health and well-being of both Festival audiences, talent, press and industry, and residents of the community.

**Social Media:**

Twitter: @TIFF\_NET @TIFF\_Industry  
Instagram / Letterboxd / TikTok: @tiff\_net  
Facebook.com/TIFF  
#TIFF21

**About TIFF**

TIFF is a not-for-profit cultural organization whose mission is to transform the way people see the world through film. An international leader in film culture, TIFF projects include the annual Toronto International Film Festival in September; TIFF Bell Lightbox, which features five cinemas, learning and entertainment facilities; and innovative national distribution program Film Circuit. The organization generates an annual economic impact of \$200 million CAD. TIFF Bell Lightbox is generously supported by contributors including Founding Sponsor Bell, the Province of Ontario, the Government of Canada, the City of Toronto, the Reitman family (Ivan Reitman, Agi Mandel and Susan Michaels), The Daniels Corporation and RBC. For more information, visit [tiff.net](https://tiff.net).

TIFF is generously supported by Lead Sponsor Bell, Major Sponsors RBC, L'Oréal Paris, and Visa, and Major Supporters the Government of Ontario, Telefilm Canada, and the City of Toronto.

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For more information, contact Alejandra Sosa, Head, Festival Media Relations & Strategy at [masosa@tiff.net](mailto:masosa@tiff.net).

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