



November 6, 2020

Tony Wells, Commissioner
Leland Willeke, Commissioner
Lea Ann Laybourn, Commissioner
Washington County Board of Commissioners
via email

Trish McClain, Director
Northeast Colorado Health Department
via email

RE: Washington County COVID-19 Dial Level Change

Dear Commissioners and Director McClain:

On October 7, 2020, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) notified Northeast Colorado Health Department that the county's incidence rates had exceeded Safer at Home Dial Level 2 (Public Health Order 20-36 COVID-19 Dial Level Yellow) thresholds. At that time, the county's incidence rates were as follows:

- Two-week cumulative incidence rate: 189.79/100,000 people
- Percent positivity: 4.06%
- 2-week COVID-19 case count (new cases): 9

As of today, the county's incidence rates are as follows:

- Two-week cumulative incidence rate: 759.17/100,000 people
- Percent positivity: 13.3%
- 2-week COVID-19 case count (new cases): 36

While the county's incidence rates are aligned with COVID-19 Dial Level Red, we have decided that a gradual implementation of restrictions is suitable at this time. As such, CDPHE is moving Washington County to COVID-19 Dial Level Orange. CDPHE also reserves the right to move the county to a more restrictive level at any point should circumstances warrant more aggressive sector restrictions.

The change from Level Yellow to Level Orange is effective Monday, November 9, 2020 at 5pm Mountain Time and the county should work to inform communities and stakeholders and ensure the transition is complete by then. This process will require the county to implement

Washington County Dial Change - Level Yellow to Level Orange
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restrictions across all sectors as described in Section II.E of [Public Health Order 20-36](#), as amended.

Should the county restore metrics for a less restrictive level at any time during the more restrictive phase, the county would need to maintain those metrics for two weeks and complete the request process described [here](#).

Additionally, when the State transitioned to Safer at Home Dial 20-35 on September 15, 2020 and COVID-19 20-36 on November 3, 2020, any sector or site-specific variances that exceeded the new dial framework remained intact. However, if a county moves to a more restrictive level in COVID-19 Dial, sector variances are permanently lost. As such, all sectors in Washington County are required to operate according to the corresponding allowances and occupancies for Level Orange.

I want to assure you that we appreciate the unique challenges facing Washington County and commend you for your efforts and diligence. Stopping the spread of this persistent virus takes the cooperation of everyone consistently practicing good disease prevention strategies and your partnership has been critical. Thank you.

Lastly, if we can be a resource for you in any capacity, please let us know. We would be happy to consult with you on additional supports and services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill Hunsaker Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jill Hunsaker Ryan, MPH
Executive Director
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment