



October 26, 2020

Mayor Michael B. Hancock
City and County of Denver
Office of the Mayor
via email

Robert M. McDonald
Public Health Administrator, City and County of Denver
Executive Director, Denver Department of Public Health and Environment
via email

RE: Denver County Safer at Home Dial Level Change

Dear Mayor Hancock and Director McDonald:

On October 8, 2020, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) reached out to you regarding Denver County's mitigation plan and requested additional restrictions. At that time, the county's incidence rates exceeded the Safer at Home Dial Level 2 metrics as follows:

- Two-week cumulative incidence rate: 200.48/100,000 people
- Percent positivity: 4.01%
- 2-week COVID-19 case count (new cases): 1,462

Director McDonald issued several Public Health Orders on October 16th which aided the mitigation efforts. As of today Denver County's metrics are as follows:

- Two-week cumulative incidence rate: 384.65/100,000 people
- Percent positivity: 7.03%
- 2-week COVID-19 case count (new cases): 2,805

Given the severity of these increases, CDPHE is moving Denver County to Safer at Home Dial Level 3. 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 2 to Level 3 is effective today, October 26, 2020 and the county should work to inform communities and stakeholders and ensure the transition is complete by Wednesday, October 28, 2020. This process will require the county to implement restrictions across all sectors as described in Section II D of [Public Health Order 20-35](#), as amended.

Denver County Dial Change - Level 2 to Level 3
October 26, 2020

Should the county restore metrics for Level 2 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](#) in order to be moved back to Level 2.

Additionally, when the State transitioned to Safer at Home Dial 20-35 on September 15, 2020, any sector or site-specific variances that exceeded the new dial framework remained intact. This included Denver County's site-specific variances for Denver Zoo, Botanic Gardens, Cherry Creek Mall, Four Mile Park, and National Western Complex. While sector variances are permanently lost when a county moves to a more restrictive level in Safer at Home Dial, site-specific variances remain intact. Therefore, the Botanic Gardens, Denver Zoo, Cherry Creek Mall, Four Mile Park, and National Western Complex can continue to operate according to the allowances and conditions of the original variance approvals on May 19, 2020 (Botanic Gardens), June 6, 2020 (Denver Zoo) and June 15, 2020 (Cherry Creek Mall, Four Mile Park and National Western Complex).

I want to assure you that we appreciate the unique challenges facing Denver 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