

COVID-19 FACT SHEET

Colorado's Dial Framework

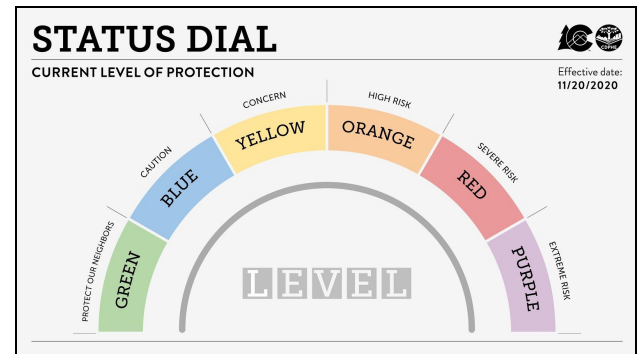


COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

During this pandemic, Colorado is working to make life as sustainable as possible, while ensuring we do not surpass our public health and health care capacities. Different levels of “openness,” standardized at the county level, will help maintain this delicate balance.

This framework recognizes unique local circumstances using an intuitive dial to visualize a community’s success in containing the spread of COVID-19. By increasing simplicity and predictability, local communities have another tool to make life amidst the pandemic more sustainable until we have a major breakthrough in testing, treatments, or a vaccine.

This dial includes six levels, from least to most restrictive. Details for each level outline specific metrics and how many people can participate in various activities at one time.



The six levels

1. **Level Green - Protect Our Neighbors:** Local public health agencies are able to contain surges in cases and outbreaks through testing, case investigation, contact tracing, isolation, quarantine, site-specific closures, and enforcement of public health orders.
2. **Level Blue - Cautious:** This is less restrictive than Level Yellow, for counties with low virus transmission but that have not yet achieved Protect Our Neighbors.
3. **Level Yellow - Concern:** The baseline. While we are all still safer at home, we are also able to practice greater social distancing in our great outdoors than in confined indoor spaces.
4. **Level Orange - High Risk:** This is more restrictive than Level Yellow, for counties experiencing increases in the metrics. Action is needed, but stricter levels may not be warranted.
5. **Level Red - Severe Risk:** Metrics are high, many indoor activities are prohibited or strictly limited, and outdoor activities are encouraged as an alternative.
6. **Level Purple - Extreme Risk:** Metrics are very high, most indoor activities are prohibited, and individuals should limit contact with people outside their household as much as possible.

Metrics that define the levels

1. **New cases:** How much the virus is circulating in a county.
2. **Percent positivity:** Whether there is sufficient COVID-19 testing to capture the level of virus transmission.
3. **Impact on hospitalizations:** Whether hospitalizations are increasing, stable, or declining.

Counties will move between levels based on the metrics and will work with the state to ensure unique local factors are considered. In order to move to a **less restrictive level** (e.g., Level Yellow to Level Blue), counties must meet and sustain **all three metrics for two weeks**. Counties must engage in a consultation process with CDPHE, which may entail moving to a more restrictive level, when they are out of compliance with **any** of the metrics for more than two weeks.

[Read the complete Dial Framework policy document.](#)