



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington County Moves on COVID-19 Dial

Akron, Colo. – November 8, 2020: The Washington County commissioners were notified on November 6th by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, that the county has been moved back to Level Orange on the COVID-19 Safer-at-Home Dial. Washington County had been situated at Level Yellow since the dial was initially introduced. Because of the significant increase in case numbers over the past month, the county has been moved to Level Orange: High Risk. This means a greater level of restrictions and requirements are in place effective Monday. This also means that the variances the county had previously gotten approved are now revoked. Specifics can be found by visiting: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/data/covid-19-dial>.

As of the October 6th letter, 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

The change from Level Yellow to Level Orange is effective on Monday, November 9, 2020 at 5pm Mountain Time.

What does this mean for the county? This ultimately means we need everyone to step up and do what is necessary to bring this situation under control. The county's new guidance is that our churches, restaurants and offices go to a lower capacity of 25%. Other services and events have a 25-person cap or could have a lower cap depending on the events. Our long-term care facilities are now closed except for compassionate visitation. This process will require the county to implement restrictions across all sectors as described in Section II.E of Public Health Order 20-36, as amended.

We all need to work together to start getting our numbers back down. To be able to move back to Level Yellow, we need to demonstrate two consecutive weeks where:

- 10% positivity rate or less
- Two-week incident rate of no more than 75-175 cases per 100,000
- No more than two new COVID-19 hospital admissions per day

These numbers are not impossible; the county has shown and maintained them for many weeks prior to the recent increase. We believe everyone needs to work together and get the numbers down. If the numbers continue to increase at the rate they have, it is possible that CDPHE may shift the county back into a Stay at Home phase, which is what we had statewide this past spring. This can mean closures for schools and many businesses, and most people are expected to stay home; obviously no one wants this.

If the community comes together we can change the atmosphere and encourage everyone to follow the Big 3 -- wash your hands, social distance and wear a mask. We have the power to change this, to protect our loved ones and those people who are the most vulnerable medically. We are asking for everyone to step up and lead by example.

For more on what you can do, go here: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/prevention>

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