



Colorado's Dial Framework



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 five 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 five levels

1. **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. **Safer at Home 1- Cautious:** This is less restrictive than Safer at Home Level 2, for counties with low virus transmission but that have not yet achieved Protect Our Neighbors.
3. **Safer at Home 2 - 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. **Safer at Home 3 - High Risk:** This is more restrictive than Safer at Home Level 2, for counties experiencing increases in the metrics. Action is needed, but Stay at Home may not be warranted.
5. **Stay at Home:** Everyone is required to stay at home except for grocery shopping, exercise and necessary activities. Only critical businesses are open.

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 2 to Level 1), counties must meet and sustain **all three metrics** for two weeks. Counties must move to a more restrictive level when they are out of compliance with **any** of the metrics for two weeks.

The complete Dial Framework policy document is available [here](#).