

1. What are the benefits of this new framework?

The new dial adds simplicity, transparency and predictability to how we open -- or close -- based on virus transmission levels. The dial makes it possible for all counties to achieve many of the increased capacity allowances that were granted to various counties under the original variance process. Additionally, the new mitigation process (often referred to as a “grace period”) and metric criteria are less restrictive and create more flexibility for disease incidence fluctuations.

2. How will this new framework affect existing variances?

Counties with a current site-specific variance or a variance with allowances that exceed the new framework will retain those variance(s); however, counties will only be able to apply for new or additional variances that are site-specific and approved by their LPHA.

3. Does the new dial change the Protect Our Neighbors certification process?

No, counties and regions must follow the same certification process to enter Protect Our Neighbors (PON). Click [here](#) to learn more about the PON phase, [here](#) to view the PON certification guide, and [here](#) to view the PON certification form.

4. According to the dashboard, my county is meeting all of the metrics for level 1 (blue), but we are still in level 2 (yellow) -- why is that?

Local leaders may opt to stay in a more restrictive level, even if the county meets the metrics for a less restrictive level. PROVIDE COVER FOR LOCAL LEADERS

5. Why are the dial metrics different from the Protect Our Neighbors metrics?

6. Can multiple counties join to form a region when transitioning between dial levels?

Yes! Counties are welcome to form regional collaboratives for the purpose of transitioning between dial levels. This would mean level metrics are measured on a region-wide (as opposed to county-wide) basis.

7. What about sector-specific guidance? Do the guidelines outlined [on the State website](#) apply at all dial levels?

All of the best practices recommended in sector guidance still apply to counties in any of the Safer at Home levels, including level 1 (blue), level 2 (yellow), and level 3 (orange), as well as Protect Our Neighbors. The capacity percentages and caps, however, adjust according to whatever dial level the county is currently in. Click here to view how the capacity caps differ based on dial level.

8. My county is ready to move into the next level on the dial. How does that process work?

In order to move to a less restrictive level (e.g., Level 2 to Level 1), the county needs to meet and sustain all three metrics for a two-week rolling period. Once metrics have been met, the LPHA must formally notify CDPHE if they would like to move to a less restrictive level.

LPHAs can notify CDPHE by completing [this form](#). Form submissions should include a letter co-signed by the required stakeholders, or a series of letters from the required stakeholders. Those stakeholders include:

- The local public health agency
- All hospitals within the county or region (unless no hospitals are located in the county)

- Hospitals must verify that they have the capacity to serve all people needing their care
- A majority of county commissioners
- Sovereign nations, if applicable

9. What is the difference between a site-specific variance and a sector variance?

10. Will counties with an existing variance that is NOT site-specific be able to amend their existing variance(s) to include site-specific locations that are currently operating under the variance(s) and that will subsequently be restricted by the new framework?

If counties identify businesses and/or organizations that are operating under a variance who were operating under a previous sector variance, but meet the new site-specific guidelines, they should submit a new variance request as outlined in the new variance guidance.

Assumptions/Logic:

Several counties have variances that are sector-wide but are only being used by a specific business. Will these counties have the opportunity to amend their existing variances for site-specific variances?

*Examples: Ouray & developed hot springs
 Pueblo & Pueblo Country Club*

11. Will variance(s) be reinstated for counties who opted back to the Public Health Order when asked to enter mitigation if their metrics at the time of that mitigation request meet the new “Safer at Home Level 1: Cautious” metrics and their variance(s) exceed the new framework?

12. If a county is currently in mitigation but meets the current “Safer at Home Level 1: Cautious” metrics, will they be moved out of mitigation?

CDPHE will evaluate every county that is currently in mitigation to determine which level the county meets under the new framework and whether mitigation is still necessary.

13. If a county is currently in mitigation and meets a different level of the new framework, will they be moved to those corresponding levels of operation (i.e. will the county be required to implement the restrictions of that particular level)? Will they have to update their mitigation plans to correspond with the suggested suppression plans?

14. How will this new framework affect the mitigation process for existing variances?

15. What happens if a county does not maintain the “Safer at Home Level 1: Cautious” level?

Any county that falls out of compliance with “Safer at Home Level 1: Cautious” will move into a 2-week monitoring phase and grace period. If after 2 weeks compliance is not restored, the county and CDPHE

will work collaboratively to identify next steps. CDPHE may offer an additional 2-week extension or require the county to move to a more restrictive level.

16. What if a county only meets one of the two metrics required for a particular level?

Any county with a population greater than 30,000 people must meet BOTH metrics in order to qualify under a new level. Counties with populations under 30,000 will be considered on a case-by-case basis.