



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATE APPROVES ROUTT COUNTY REQUEST FOR LEVEL ONE FOR SAFER AT HOME

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO, OCTOBER 9, 2020 – In an email sent to Routt County Board of Commissioners and Public Health Director, Roberta Smith, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) approved Routt County’s request to move to Level One in the state’s Safer at Home Framework. Routt County has met all three criteria to move to Level One including a case count of 7-19 cases in two weeks, less than 5 percent positivity rate and low hospitalizations. Moving to Level One loosens current restrictions, like increasing personal gathering sizes from 10 to 25 people. Public Health reminds the community that in order to stay at this level we need to continue to practice the Five Commitments of Containment – wearing facial coverings, staying six feet apart, washing hands often, staying home if sick and getting tested.

In the email letter from Director Jill Ryan, she thanks the county for its efforts and says that the decision *“is based on the facts and circumstances today as you have described in your request, and is subject to adjustment if conditions change...If the County exceeds a two-week cumulative incidence rate or 75 or a percent positivity of 5% or exceeds the definition for stable hospitalizations outlined in Section II of the PHO for Level 1, we request that you implement a mitigation plan for two weeks to and restore virus transmission levels to the baseline under which the request was approved. If after two weeks, the metrics for level one are not restored, then CDPHE will consult with you about next steps...Additionally, any existing variances that were grandfathered in under the Safer at Home Dial and no longer exceed Level 1 will be permanently lost..”*

The Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE) [COVID-19 Dial Framework](#) defines levels based upon number of new cases, test positivity, and number of hospitalizations. The thresholds for number of cases is:

- **Protect our Neighbors:** There have been 25 or fewer new cases per 100,000 people in the past two weeks.
- **Safer at Home Level 1:** There have been fewer than 75 new cases per 100,000 people in the past two weeks.
- **Safer at Home Level 2:** There have been between 75 and 175 new cases per 100,000 people in the past two weeks.

- **Safer at Home Level 3:** There have been between 175 and 350 new cases per 100,000 people in the past two weeks.
- **Stay at Home:** There have been more than 350 new cases per 100,000 people in the past two weeks.

With the population of Routt County around 25,000, this translates to:

- **Protect our Neighbors:** less than 7 cases in two weeks
- **Safer at Home Level 1:** 7-19 cases in two weeks
- **Safer at Home Level 2:** 19-45 cases in two weeks
- **Safer at Home Level 3:** 45-90 cases in two weeks
- **Stay at Home:** more than 90 cases in two weeks

Routt County met all the three criteria to move to Level One:

- amount of new cases (for Routt County, 19 or less cases in a two-week period)
- low percent positivity under 5%
- stable or declining hospitalizations for a two-week rolling period

See the level of each county in Colorado [here](#).

Moving to the Level One means that:

- Personal gathering sizes can increase from 10 to 25
- Outdoor events can increase from 175 to 250 or 50%
- Indoor Events can increase from 100 to 175 or 50%
- Places of Worship can increase from 50% capacity or 50 people to 50% capacity or 175 indoors
- Group sports and camps can increase from 25 to 50
- Retail, offices, personal services and limited health care settings stay the same.
- The current restaurant variance would no longer be in effect.

[For more details see here](#).

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