



November 19, 2020

Keith Goodwin, Commissioner
John V. Hostetler, Commissioner
Jim Baldwin, Commissioner
Otero County Board of Commissioners
via email

Rick Ritter, Director
Otero County Public Health
via email

RE: Otero County COVID-19 Dial Level Change

Dear Commissioners and Director Ritter:

On October 26, 2020, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) notified Otero County Public Health that the county's incidence rate had exceeded COVID-19 Dial Level Yellow thresholds. At that time, the county's COVID-19 metrics were as follows:

- Two-week cumulative incidence rate: 153.16/100,000 people
- Percent positivity: 6.55%
- 2-week COVID-19 case count (new cases): 28

As of today, the county's COVID-19 metrics are as follows:

- Two-week cumulative incidence rate: 722.06/100,000 people
- Percent positivity: 14.93%
- 2-week COVID-19 case count (new cases): 132

Given the increase in incidence rate, case count and percent testing positivity, an implementation of additional restrictions is more warranted at this time. As such, CDPHE is moving Otero County to COVID-19 Dial Level Red.

The change from Level Orange to Level Red is effective Sunday, November 22, 2020 at 5pm and the county should work to inform residents, businesses and other stakeholders to ensure the transition is completed by then. This process will require the county to implement restrictions across all sectors as described in Section II.F of [Public Health Order 20-36](#), as amended.

Otero County Dial Change - Level Orange to Level Red
November 19, 2020

Should the county restore metrics for a less restrictive level at any time during the more restrictive phase, the county would need to maintain those metrics for two weeks and complete the request process described [here](#).

I want to assure you that we appreciate the unique challenges facing Otero County and commend you for your diligence. Preventing the spread of this persistent virus takes the cooperation of everyone consistently practicing good disease prevention strategies and your partnership is critical to this effort. Thank you.

Lastly, if we can be a resource for you in any capacity, please let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill Hunsaker Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jill Hunsaker Ryan, MPH
Executive Director
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment