

# CALPHO

Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials

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## Metro Denver Partnership for Health

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November 5, 2020

To: Jill Ryan, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
Kacey Wulff, Senior Advisor for COVID-19 Response, Resilience, and Recovery

Jill and Kacey –

Thank you for your leadership in responding to the coronavirus pandemic.

We are at a critical juncture in the COVID-19 pandemic. Cases are increasing at an alarming rate. Contact tracing and investigation capacity is tapped. Hospitalization rates are at an all-time high since the pandemic began and are projected to exceed capacity by year's end.

We write today in support of the Dial for Protect Our Neighbors, Safer at Home, and Stay at Home (the Dial). We strongly encourage you to act according to the timelines and mechanisms identified within the PH Order and Dial Policy Framework.

We believe this is a useful instrument to mitigate transfer of this contagious disease while also supporting counties to remain as open and as vibrant as possible. Adherence to timelines and criteria allow for consistency, transparency, clarity and equity across the Metro region and state. While we appreciate the latitude in additional timing that CDPHE has provided to counties whose metrics exceed their Level on the Dial, we are concerned that with the steep acceleration of cases and hospitalizations, these delays will reduce the value of the additional restrictions provided in the higher level, essentially rendering them "too little, too late". In particular, we are concerned that the level of case rates we are currently experiencing and the resulting reduction in our contact tracing capacity reduce the likely benefit of the innovative approaches recently suggested by Dr. Birx (eg, broad use of rapid antigen testing).

Paradoxically, the ultimate outcome of these delays could be a greater likelihood of moving to the Stay at Home level that we all want to avoid and/or a greater length of time required in Stay at Home to reverse the dramatic rates of growth. Like you and our county leaders, we would like to keep our community sectors and businesses as open as possible, but worry about delaying the "strong medicine" of a Level change until it is too late to be effective.

With appropriate and uniform treatment, this framework will allow counties to move between levels based on key disease metrics and our communities' abilities to handle the disease burden, including projected hospitalizations. We also encourage you to uphold the reassessment periods called for within the Dial so that counties can move between levels, especially as situations improve.

We are reaching out on behalf of the Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials (CALPHO), and the Metro Denver Partnership for Health (MDPH), which is led by the six local public health agencies serving the seven-county Denver metro area, including Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson counties.

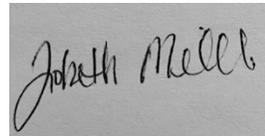
We support your plans to revisit the Dial metrics and look forward to working together on these refinements. The urgency of our circumstances require that we make use of thresholds and Levels currently specified in the Dial while working concurrently to refine its metrics and hone its effectiveness.

Thank you for your leadership during these extraordinary times as well as your support and continued partnership. We look forward to discussing this important issue with you as soon as possible. Please contact us with any questions.

Regards,



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Director Kiowa County Public Health  
President, Colorado Association of Local  
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Jobeth Mills  
Director  
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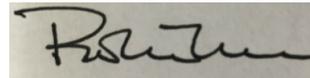
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CC: CALPHO Members