



November 18, 2020

Jonathan Houck, Chair  
Elizabeth Smith, Commissioner  
Roland Mason, Commissioner  
Gunnison County Board of Commissioners  
*via email*

Matthew Birnie, County Manager  
Gunnison County  
*via email*

Joni Reynolds, Director  
Gunnison County Public Health  
*via email*

RE: Gunnison County Protect Our Neighbors Status and COVID-19 Dial Change

Dear Commissioners, County Manager Birnie, and Director Reynolds,

On November 11, 2020, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) notified Gunnison County Public Health that the county's incidence rates had exceeded the Protect Our Neighbors threshold, and as such, the county would be moved to Level Blue to facilitate a gradual implementation of restrictions. At that time, the county's COVID-19 metrics were as follows:

- Two-week cumulative incidence rate: 382.97/100,000 people
- Percent positivity: 12.86%
- 2-week COVID-19 case count (new cases): 67

We stipulated in our letter that if the county's incidence rates had not been restored to Level Blue or significantly decreased by today, the county would be required to move to Level Yellow. As of today, the county's COVID-19 metrics are as follows:

- Two-week cumulative incidence rate: 588.74/100,000 people
- Percent positivity: 12.77%
- 2-week COVID-19 case count (new cases): 103

Given the two-week cumulative incidence rate has continued to increase, moving the county to Level Yellow is suitable at this time. This change will be effective Friday, November 20, 2020 at 5pm.

Gunnison County Protect Our Neighbors Status Change - Level Blue to Level Yellow  
November 18, 2020

The county should work to inform communities and stakeholders to ensure the Level Yellow transition is completed by then. This process will require the county to implement restrictions across all sectors as described in Section II.D of [Public Health Order 20-36](#), as amended.

Should the county restore metrics for a less restrictive level for two weeks, please contact Elle Child for instructions on dial movement and loosening restrictions.

I want to assure you that we appreciate the unique challenges facing Gunnison 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 has been critical to the 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