



FREMONT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

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Fremont County to move to Level Yellow: Safer at Home Concern due to the rising in COVID-19 case rate

FREMONT COUNTY-In response to the rise in COVID-19 case rates, test positivity, and hospitalizations, the Fremont County Department of Public Health and Environment (FCDPHE) along with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is moving Fremont County to Level Yellow: Safer at Home Concern and amended and extended the current Emergency Public Health Order to November 19th, 2020.

The Public health officials monitor the number of cases and positivity rates, along with the hospitalization trends to determine whether the spread of the COVID-19 virus is rising, falling, or holding steady. These numbers and trends help the public health department determine whether a new public health order or a shift in the state's dial framework is warranted. As of November 9th, 2020, Fremont County's COVID-19 two-week community case count is 158, and the positivity rate is 4.5%. The threshold for Safer Level 1: Cautious is 75 cases per 100,000 population. Fremont County surpassed this threshold on October 14th, 2020, and after a two-week mitigation period, we were not able to get back below that threshold. On October 30th, 2020, FCDPHE Director Kayla Marler issued an emergency public health order to slow our rising number of cases. After meeting with CDPHE officials and the Fremont County Board of Health, Fremont County will now move to Level Yellow Safer at Home-Concern.

Level Yellow Safer at Home-Concern restrictions will go into effect on November 10th, 2020, at 12 a.m.

The Fremont County officials are aware and attuned to the burden these restrictions place on our businesses and community. We sincerely appreciate everyone's continued efforts and cooperation to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Fremont County Department of Public Health and Environment encourages businesses or anyone else that has questions to contact the department at 719-276-7450 Monday thru Thursday at 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. to get more guidance and resources.

“None of us are happy about moving down the dial,” said Debbie Bell, Fremont County Commissioner Chair. “But the conversation started with CDPHE wanting us to drop all the way down to orange. At the very least, our new yellow status will allow our restaurants and other businesses to maintain the current 50 percent capacity. Orange would have dropped to 25 percent capacity, and we know how devastating that would be to our economy. We hope county-wide numbers come under control in the next 10 days, or the state likely will move us to orange, even over our strenuous objections. We are asking every citizen to do your best to keep us all safe.”

The main difference between Level Blue: Safer at Home and Level Yellow: Safer at Home are the following:

- Maximum attendees at indoor unseated worship services are reduced from 175 to 50 people or 50% of capacity, whichever is fewer.
- Maximum attendees at indoor seated worship services are reduced from 175 to 100 people or 50% of capacity, whichever is fewer.
- Maximum attendees at gyms are reduced from 75 to 50 people or 25% of capacity, whichever is fewer.
- Maximum attendees at restaurants reduced from 175 to 50 people or 50% capacity, whichever is fewer.

The extension of the Emergency Public Health order amendments is as followed:

- Recreational sports will be limited to players and spectators who reside in Fremont County and/or neighboring counties that are in Level Yellow: Safer at Home Concern, Level Blue: Safer at Home Cautious, or Level Green: Protect Our Neighbors.
- Organized recreational and league sports are limited to 2 spectators per player with no more than 50% of capacity, up to 50 spectators in indoor facilities, and 75 in outdoor facilities. All teams and facilities participating in recreational and league sports must submit complete rosters, schedules, location of games/practices, and contact information (to include names, phone numbers, and email addresses) of all team members or parents of youth who participate prior to the teams playing in any league events, including practice. Failure of parents, facilities, coaches, and/or team organizers to cooperate with contact tracing may result in the league or season being suspended or canceled.

For more information about our current level and case counts, please visit the state’s COVID-19 dial dashboard at <https://covid19.colorado.gov/data/covid-19-dial>.