

Jefferson County Public Health PHO 21-001 – Simplified Dial Frequently Asked Questions April 13, 2021

SIMPLIFIED DIAL

Why is Jefferson County adopting the modified Dial?

[Case rates and hospitalizations](#) in the Denver Metro Area have held steady or risen over the past several weeks, although down from the peaks of November and December 2020, while variant strains of the virus continue to expand across the state. [Modeling data](#) from the Colorado School of Public Health suggest that delaying policy changes that loosen restrictions until mid-May will prevent unnecessary hospitalizations and deaths.

This brief phased approach will allow Jefferson County and the rest of the Denver Metro Area to continue to increase vaccinations and work towards herd immunity. It is estimated that about 30% of Coloradan's are immune to COVID-19. Public health experts estimate that 70-85% of the population needs to be vaccinated to stop the ongoing community spread of COVID-19.

How does the simplified Dial work?

Under the new PHO 21-001, there are two phases to reopening:

- **Phase 1 – Moving Toward a Full Reopening (April 16-May15):** Businesses and individuals can operate under Dial 3.0's Level Blue capacity limits and simplified mitigation requirements for 30 days. There will be no movement during this 30-day period. [Review the order](#) for specific mitigation requirements and capacity limits for businesses and activities.
- **Phase 2 – Observation Period (May 16-August 15):** Jefferson County will move to a new Level on the Dial — Level Clear — which has no restrictions. In Level Clear, businesses will operate at 100 percent capacity with no mitigation requirements, although mask requirements may still apply. During the observation period, rather than focusing on incidence rates or test positivity rates, JCPH will closely monitor hospitalizations, a health metric indicative of severity of COVID-19 infections. It is expected that by late May vaccination coverage should be sufficient to control COVID-19 transmission in Jeffco. However, if needed, JCPH can apply capacity limits based on hospitalization rates as described in the order.

What requirements are staying in place in this new simplified Dial?

In Level Blue (Phase 1) and all other more protective Levels on the Dial, Mitigation Requirements have been simplified to ensure consistency across industries and to limit requirements to only those that are most critical in reducing the spread of COVID-19.

Requirements include:

- Adhering to capacity limits based on Level designation and activity/industry
- Observing 6-foot distancing between non-household members, with limited exceptions
- Following [CDC's Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility guidance](#)
- Maximizing ventilation whenever possible
- Hanging signage

In Level Clear, starting in Phase 2 on May 16, 2021, all capacity restrictions and Mitigation Requirements for All Sectors are removed. Businesses and individuals in Level Clear may still be subject to orders from the state and indoor mask requirements.

What requirements are going away?

In Level Blue and all other more protective Levels, businesses and individuals must comply with a new simplified set of Mitigation Requirements as outlined above.

In Level Clear, all requirements are going away at the local level. All industry specific requirements have been removed including:

- Requirements to collect customer contact information
- Requirements to thoroughly symptom screen customers and employees. Employees and customers who have been exposed to a known positive case or who are exhibiting symptoms or signs of illness must still stay home.
- Requirements to clean some surfaces every hour or after every use. Must now follow CDC guidance.
- The prohibition on some activities including self-serve buffets and bounce houses
- Requirements to wear gloves beyond industry standards
- The prohibition on shared equipment and shared surfaces
- The requirement to be seated while eating and drinking outdoors. In indoor spaces, masks may only be removed when seated to eat or drink.
- Requirements to sanitize products before reselling

Are there any restrictions on Outdoor Events?

Under Level Blue, Outdoor Event capacity is only limited by the requirement to observe 6-foot distancing. [See the capacity chart in Appendix A of the Order](#) for more information on capacity limits in more protective Levels. Except in Level Clear, all Outdoor Events must comply with the Mitigation Requirements for All Sectors, including 6-foot distancing.

In Level Clear, there are no restrictions on Outdoor Events.

This Order does not require any plan review or approval for Outdoor Events, but your local permitting office may require COVID-19 plans and all events are required to follow any State Order that is in place at the time of the event. JCPH is available to provide technical assistance on event planning. You can request assistance by emailing healthpreports@jeffco.us

Are there any limits on Indoor Events?

[See the capacity chart in Appendix A of the Order](#) for more information on capacity limits in more protective Levels. Except in Level Clear, all Indoor Events must comply with the Mitigation Requirements for All Sectors, including 6-foot distancing.

In Level Clear, there are no restrictions on Indoor Events.

This Order does not require any plan review or approval for Indoor Events. However, all events are required to follow any State Order that is in place at the time of the event. JCPH is available to provide technical assistance on event planning. You can request assistance by emailing healthpreports@jeffco.us

Do performers still need to be further than 6-feet?

No, performers must only remain 6 feet away from spectators. However, performers who engage in activities that involve increased forced exhalation, such as singing, are highly encouraged to distance themselves further than 6 feet from spectators.

Do I still need to symptom screen employees or customers?

No. While it is encouraged to symptom screen employees and customers, this is not required by the Order.

Is the Five-Star Certification Program still in place?

Since Jefferson County will move to Level Blue on the Dial on April 16, 2021, it has made the choice to suspend the Five-Star Program as of that date. However, if the county ever moves back up into a more protective Dial Level it will reactivate the program.

What steps can all individuals take to stay safe and Be COVID Smart?

Our communities have made encouraging progress in the fight against COVID-19, but we can't let our guard down now. The good news is, we know what works. Evidence and experience demonstrate how to control COVID-19 in our communities. The [Metro Denver Partnership for Health](#) is highlighting the science-based steps we need to take to control COVID-19 and get life back to normal. We are making progress but are not out of the woods. COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, including those from new variants, are surging again in western Europe, South America, and in states like Michigan and New Jersey.

Everyone can take four steps to control the spread of COVID-19:

- **Get vaccinated:** Vaccination works very well, both to prevent disease and to decrease transmission.
- **Mask up:** Masking remains one of the most effective measure to decrease transmission, comparable to vaccination.
- **Socialize smarter:** Indoor gatherings remain a major risk for COVID-19 transmission, particularly when masks are not worn consistently, like when eating and drinking. Keep indoor gatherings small and mask up if you're with people who aren't vaccinated yet.
- **Attend school safely:** In-person learning from early childhood care centers through high school is feasible and safe with routine prevention measures including appropriate distancing, universal masking, ventilation and handwashing.

[Learn more about how to Be COVID Smart.](#)

MASKS IN INDOOR SETTINGS

Is JCPH's public health order requiring masks indoors (PHO 20-008) still in effect?

JCPH's local mask order, [PHO 20-008](#), remains in effect and all residents and visitors in Jefferson County must continue to wear a mask in indoor public spaces when 6 ft. distancing cannot be maintained from non-household members. In areas where the statewide mask order is more restrictive, individuals must follow those requirements.

What is different about the JCPH Masking Order?

Between the JCPH Order and the Governor's Masking Order?

- The Governor's Order allows groups smaller than 10, regardless of vaccination status or setting, to gather without a mask, JCPH's does not.

- The Governor's Order allows groups of vaccinated individuals to gather without masks, regardless of setting and without a maximum number of individuals, JCPH's does not.
- Therefore, when there are 9 or fewer individuals or a group of fully-vaccinated individuals in an indoor public setting, the JCPH Order requires individuals to wear face coverings if they cannot maintain 6 feet of distance from non-household members.

Between JCPH's previous Order and this Newly Amended Order?

- JCPH has removed the requirement to wear masks outdoors when 6-foot distancing is not maintained.