

Protect Our Neighbors/Colorado Dial Framework Frequently Asked Questions

What is Protect Our Neighbors?

- Protect Our Neighbors is Colorado’s least restrictive phase of reopening in which certified and approved counties/regions can open to 50% capacity across all sectors and gatherings up to 500 people.
- Protect Our Neighbors metrics include 8 science-based thresholds agreed upon by local and state public health leaders which determine Protect Our Neighbors certification.
- Reaching the Protect Our Neighbors phase demonstrates that communities in Colorado meeting certain criteria have less stringent restrictions than under Stay at Home and Safer at Home phases. Different communities throughout the state will be at different phases, based on local conditions and capabilities.

What is SJBPH’s [Protect Our Neighbors dashboard](#)?

- SJBPH’s Protect Our Neighbors dashboard shares information on La Plata and Archuleta counties’ progress toward the less restrictive phase of openness during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The dashboard will track the 8 criteria which need to qualify for PON.

How do counties reach the Protect Our Neighbors phase?

- Counties must meet the following criteria to qualify for the Protect Our Neighbors phase:
 1. Sufficient hospital bed capacity
 2. Sufficient PPE Supply
 3. Stable or declining COVID-19 hospitalizations
 4. Fewer new cases of COVID-19
 5. Sufficient testing capacity
 6. Ability to implement case investigation and contact tracing protocol
 7. Documented surge-capacity plan for case investigation and contact tracing
 8. Documented strategies to offer testing to close contacts
- Communities must sustain the above criteria over a two-week period and then apply to the state for Protect Our Neighbors certification.
- An application must be accompanied by a Mitigation Plan agreed upon by local public health, county leadership, law enforcement, local hospitals, and tribes. This plan states how the entities will respond together if any of the 8 metrics fall out of the desired range.

What is the state [COVID-19 dial framework](#)?

- Colorado’s dial framework standardizes different levels of “openness” at the county level. It is a tool for counties to use to make life during the pandemic more sustainable, allowing us to balance, to the greatest extent possible, controlling the virus with our social and economic needs.
- Colorado’s dial framework has five levels to guide county response to COVID-19.
- Counties move back and forth between levels, depending on three metrics.
- Levels are based on three metrics: the number of new cases, the percent positivity of COVID tests, and the impact on hospitals, and local considerations. As the dial moves left, toward Protect Our Neighbors, more people can participate in various activities more openly.
- This framework gives communities a new tool to make life in the pandemic more sustainable.

What is the difference between SJBPH’s Protect Our Neighbors dashboard and the state’s dial framework?

- The Dial framework provides five levels of openness for a community based on underlying metrics. Protect Our Neighbors is the least restrictive level and requires qualification by additional metrics.
- SJBPH’s Protect Our Neighbors dashboard is focused on metrics related to reaching the least restrictive phase. There is some overlap between the Protect Our Neighbors metrics and the Dial metrics, but they are not exactly the same.
- SJBPH’s Protect Our Neighbors dashboard will provide a snapshot of the current status under the dial framework and will link to the state’s dial dashboard.