

November 20, 2020

Jill Hunsaker Ryan, MPH
Executive Director
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Via Email

Director Hunsaker Ryan:

The Douglas County Board of County Commissioners finds it necessary to correct the record regarding the current relationship between the Colorado State Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and Douglas County Government. During the November 18, 2020, call with the CDPHE, counties, municipalities, Legislators, and special districts, a comment was made by yourself that the counties being moved to Level Red on November 20, 2020, were doing so willingly. You continued to say that counties which had not yet moved (including but not limited to places like Weld, Pueblo and El Paso Counties) had not yet come to agreement with the CDPHE on the need to move down a level.

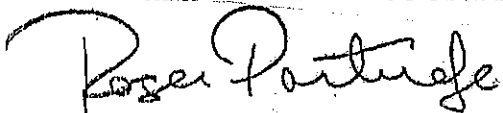
We, the Board of County Commissioners for Douglas County, respectfully disagree with the statements you made regarding the willingness and agreement of counties to move down the Dial. The message from CDPHE during the November 17, 2020 call regarding Douglas County's mandated move to Level Red, was that the move was not negotiable. In response to a question on the possibility of opting out, CDPHE said there is no option to opt-out of the move down the Dial.

We find it difficult to message compliance with the CDPHE's requirements and restrictions on our citizens when the CDPHE is making comments which we believe do not accurately reflect the true dynamics of the situation. The CDPHE mandated Douglas County move down the Dial to Level Red. The CDPHE never asked the Board of County Commissioners if this move was acceptable. When asked if there was an option to opt-out, the CDPHE said no. We are concerned that the comments made yesterday, insinuating agreement from Commissioners, do not reflect the true nature of the relationship.

We respectfully ask that clarification is made by yourself and CDPHE as to the nature of how CDPHE makes decisions on county movement along the Dial and clarifies that the move on November 20, 2020, is a mandate by CDPHE with no option to opt-out.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Roger A. Partridge, Chair

cc: Governor Jared Polis - *Via Email*