



**COUNTY OF RIVESIDE
COMMUNITY HEALTH AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

RIVERSIDE COUNTY'S FIRST WEST NILE VIRUS RELATED DEATH

(Riverside County) – According to the Riverside County's Health Officer, Dr. Gary Feldman, an 84-year old individual is the first person in Riverside County to die after being diagnosed with West Nile virus (WNV). The individual had a number of other serious health problems that may have weakened his immune system. "We all must take West Nile virus infection very seriously and do everything we can to control mosquitoes and reduce our chances of being bitten by mosquitoes," stated Feldman.

Recommended precautions include:

- Eliminating standing water from your property to reduce mosquito breeding
- Using insect repellent containing DEET or other products such as picaridin, always following label directions
- Making sure your window and door screens are in good condition
- Limiting outdoor activity at dawn and dusk, when mosquitoes are most active
- Wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants when out doors

Most people who become infected with West Nile virus do not experience symptoms or become ill. As many as 20% of those with WNV infection may experience mild to moderate symptoms and about one in every 150 people infected will experience the most serious complications. Anyone who develops symptoms such as a high fever, confusion, muscle weakness, severe headaches or stiff neck, should seek medical care immediately. Adults over 50 years of age are at an increased risk of serious complications from WNV infection.

Continued on Page 2

Residents should contact the local mosquito and vector control agency if there is a significant mosquito problem where they live or work.

Contact numbers are listed below:

Riverside City Mosquito Control – 951-351-6127

Riverside County Mosquito Control – 951-766-9454

Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control District – 951-340-9792

Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District – 760-342-8287

For additional information about West Nile virus please visit the following websites:

Riverside County Department of Public Health – Disease Control – www.rivcoph.org/disease/disease.htm

Riverside County Department of Environmental Health – www.rivcoeh.org

State of California West Nile Virus Surveillance Information Center – www.westnile.ca.gov

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