



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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY ANNOUNCES A FIFTH WEST NILE VIRUS RELATED DEATH**

(Riverside County) – According to the Riverside County’s Health Officer, Doctor Gary Feldman, two additional persons in Riverside County have died after being diagnosed with West Nile virus (WNV); bringing the count to five for 2005. Although 5 cases represent a disproportionate share for California, the small numbers make it difficult to determine the significance of the finding stated Dr. Gary Feldman, Public Health Officer for Riverside County. The Department continues to stress the importance of the public taking precautions to protect themselves against WNV.

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

Seventy-two human cases have been reported in Riverside County as of September 15, 2005, compared to 91 cases for the same time period last year. 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.

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](http://www.rivcoph.org/disease/disease.htm)  
Riverside County Department of Environmental Health – [www.rivcoeh.org](http://www.rivcoeh.org)  
State of California West Nile Virus Surveillance Information Center – [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov)