

**COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

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HEALTH ALERT

**Naegleria (nigh-gleer-e-uh)
Waterborne Parasite in Warm Fresh Water Lakes**



NAEGLERIA

Naegleria is the name for a very tiny parasite (ameba) that is usually found in fresh water bodies such as lakes and ponds.

NAEGLERIA FOWLERI

Naegleria fowleri causes an infection that develops when these parasites enter the human body through the nose, making their way to the brain. Not everyone exposed to the organism becomes infected. This infection is extremely rare. Six cases occurred in the U.S. in 2007.

THE DISEASE MOVES VERY QUICKLY

Symptoms can start as quickly as 1-14 days and include headache, fever, nausea, vomiting and stiff neck. As the disease moves into the brain, it causes swelling which leads to confusion, lack of attention, loss of balance, seizure and hallucinations. This disease usually results in death within 3 to 7 days.

**INDIVIDUALS WITH ANY OF THE ABOVE SYMPTOMS SHOULD CONTACT THEIR
MEDICAL PROVIDER.**

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

- Avoid water-related activities in bodies of warm fresh water, hot springs, ponds and thermally polluted water such as water around power plants.
- Avoid water-related activities in fresh water when water temperatures are high and water levels are low.
- Avoid swimming in polluted water and unchlorinated swimming pools.
- Avoid digging into or stirring up sediment while taking part in water-related activities in shallow, warm fresh water areas.
- Hold the nose shut or use nose clips while taking part in water-related activities in bodies of warm fresh water such as lakes, rivers or hot springs

GET MORE FACTS

Search for keywords *Naegleria fowleri* at www.cdc.gov.
Get additional information from Riverside County Department of Public Health
Disease Control Branch - (951) 358-5107

www.rivco-diseasecontrol.org

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