



January 9, 2019

Contact:

Jose Arballo Jr., RUHS-Public Health

Senior Public Information Specialist

Office: 951.358.5599 Cell: 951.712.3705

Email: jarballoJR@ruhealth.org

Barbara Cole, RUHS-Public Health

Director, Disease Control

Office: 951.358.5107 Cell: 951-906.9001

Riverside County health officials report death of 4-year-old child is flu-related

A 4-year-old child from southwest Riverside County who recently died tested positive for influenza, according to health officials.

The death is considered the first pediatric flu-associated death of this flu season (2018-19) in Riverside County. There have been two pediatric flu-associated deaths in California so far during the current flu season, according to state health officials.

The child's death took place outside the county and was reported to Riverside County health officials late last week.

The child had not received a flu shot and had no underlying health issues, said Dr. Cameron Kaiser, Riverside County Public Health Officer.

"Our condolences go out to the loved ones who have suffered such a great loss. This is a tragic reminder that the flu can still kill, and that children are particularly susceptible to the illness," Kaiser said. "We continue to recommend community members get their flu shot. Get your flu shot and get protected."

There is still time to get the flu shot, Kaiser said, adding that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that all persons 6 months of age and older receive a flu vaccination each year. Kaiser also recommends frequent hand washing and avoiding getting close to people who are sick as ways to avoid the flu. If you or your child are sick, stay home from work and school.

Last year (2017-18), there were 23 flu-associated deaths in Riverside County of individuals 64 or younger. There were 80,000 flu deaths nationally in this age group, according to the CDC.

For more information on where flu shots are being offered throughout Riverside County, www.rivcoimm.org