Riverside County: First flu-related death confirmed

A Murrieta child who recently died in Riverside County tested positive for influenza, according to health officials.

The death is the first flu-associated death of this flu season in Riverside County.

The child is under 10 and was a Murrieta resident, according to Dr. Cameron Kaiser, Riverside County public health officer.

“This is a tragic reminder that the flu still kills,” Dr. Kaiser said. “Get your flu shot and get protected.”

The child’s vaccination status and whether there were any underlying health issues such as a compromised immune system are not known.

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

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

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