



**Riverside County  
Public Health**

Susan Harrington, M.S., R.D., Director  
Cameron Kaiser, M.D., Public Health Officer

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Contact:

**Marsie Huling**, Public Health Program Coordinator  
Department of Public Health, Injury Prevention Services  
Office: 951-358-7171 Cell: 951-901-5879  
[mhuling@rivcocha.org](mailto:mhuling@rivcocha.org)

## **Thousands of Riverside County students to take part in International Walk to School Day Oct. 7**

More than 20,000 Riverside County students – enough kids to pack Staples Center -- will lace up and hit the streets as part of International Walk to School Day on Oct. 7.

The one-day event is part of a worldwide effort to celebrate the many health benefits of walking and biking to school and to encourage families to park the minivan and embrace a healthier lifestyle change that will last year round.

International Walk to School Day kicks off a year-long effort to create sustainable walking and biking programs to improve fitness, air quality and traffic flow around schools which increases student safety.

“We are thrilled at how many schools have joined the effort this year. It’s going to be great to see some new faces and familiar friends. But, we also want to see the schools moving beyond this day to adopt Walking Wednesdays or Fit Fridays every week,” said Marsie Huling, Safe Routes to School program coordinator for the Riverside County Department of Public Health.

Huling said that a record 88 Riverside County schools from across the region, including Western Riverside, the San Gorgonio Pass, Southwest County and the Coachella Valley, will participate in the walk.

Thousands of students, parents and community-based volunteers will form “walking school buses” in which groups of children, parents and volunteers will walk to school together.

Many school sites will have various activities and be joined by special guests such as elected officials, community leaders and first responders.

Lake Elsinore Storm mascot Thunder will make an appearance, as well as CBS “Survivor: Gabon” contestant and Reality Rally founder Gillian Larson, who will walk with her grandchildren to Rancho Elementary School in Temecula.

The event is coordinated by the Riverside County Department of Public Health and is sponsored by a combination of public agencies, police departments, city governments and community organizations.

For more information on the Safe Routes to School program, visit online at [www.rivcoips.org](http://www.rivcoips.org) and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/RivCoSafeRoutesToSchool>.

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