



**Riverside County
Public Health**

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Series of public forums planned to discuss, address health issues in Riverside County

Public health officials have planned a countywide series of community forums to hear from residents about their health-related concerns and create a plan to address them. The meetings will begin next month in Perris and continue through April at locations from Temecula to Blythe.

“It is an ambitious schedule, but it is important that we hear from everyone,” said Susan Harrington, director for the Riverside County Department of Public Health. “Each region of the county is unique, and the needs and concerns of the people living in those communities are unique as well. It is critical that as many people as possible get to express their concerns and needs.”

The hour-long meetings will help the department and partners from across the public health system better understand of the concerns residents have about everything from access to healthcare, education and community safety. Participants will hear from county health officials about available programs and services, but Harrington said the focus will be on getting input about community needs. Information gathered from all the meetings and the surveys will be used to put together a plan outlining the issues discussed and ways the department and its partners will help address residents’ needs.

As part of the outreach, the department has collaborated on a needs-assessment survey that is available online in English and Spanish. Copies also will be available at the forums. To see a schedule of meetings or to access the health survey, go to: www.rivcoph.org/CommunityForums.aspx

The campaign also marks the debut of the department's Twitter feed for Public Health Officer Dr. Cameron Kaiser (@rivcodoc), who will be attending many of the meetings and giving timely updates.