



**Riverside  
University**  
**HEALTH SYSTEM**  
Public Health

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**Contacts:**

Jose Arballo Jr., RUHS-Public Health

951-712-3705

[jarballojr@ruhealth.org](mailto:jarballojr@ruhealth.org)

Brooke Federico, Riverside County Executive Office

951-743-0075

[bcfederico@rivco.org](mailto:bcfederico@rivco.org)

## **Riverside County public health officer orders cancellation of Coachella and Stagecoach music festivals**

Riverside County Public Health Officer Dr. Cameron Kaiser has ordered the cancellation of the Coachella and Stagecoach music festivals, citing concerns about the possible health risks because of the ongoing novel coronavirus (COVID-19) spread.

The order was issued Tuesday, but does not preclude the events taking place at a later date.

“This decision was not taken lightly or without consideration of many factors,” said Kaiser, who on Sunday declared a public health emergency in the county after the first locally-acquired coronavirus case in Coachella Valley. “No doubt it will impact many people, but my top priority is to protect the health of the entire community.”

Kaiser praised the years-long relationship between the county and Goldenvoice, which operates both the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival and Stagecoach Festival 2020, and said the decision to cancel the event was made to prevent the spread of the illness that has sickened hundreds of thousands worldwide and killed thousands.

In Riverside County, officials have reported six coronavirus cases, including four in the Coachella Valley. The source of one of the cases has not been determined, so it is considered a community spread.

Community spread involves transmission of an illness for which the source of infection is unknown. It indicates that the virus was not contracted through relevant travel history or contact to a known case of COVID-19, and suggests that the virus is present in the community.

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