



## San Francisco Department of Public Health

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### Statement regarding Zika virus by Dr. Tomas Aragon, San Francisco Health Officer

The San Francisco Department of Public Health received confirmation from the California Department of Public Health on February 4, 2016 that a San Francisco resident has tested positive for the Zika virus. The person was infected with Zika virus while traveling in Central America, and is now fully recovered and doing well. No transmission of the disease took place in the United States, and there was no risk of transmission to the local community from this case. In order to protect patient privacy, San Francisco is not releasing further details about the Zika case.

There is no reason for the general public to be concerned that they are at risk for getting Zika in San Francisco at this time. Zika is not circulating in San Francisco.

Zika is a virus that is spread through mosquito bites. It generally causes mild symptoms of fever, joint pain, rash and red eyes. Currently Zika is circulating in a number of countries, mostly in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as in Puerto Rico. Recently, Brazil has experienced an increase in cases of the birth defect "microcephaly," which causes babies to be born with unusually small heads. This appears to be linked to maternal infection with Zika virus, and research is ongoing to understand the connection. Sexual transmission of Zika virus from men to women has also been observed.

Zika virus is spread when a mosquito bites a person who has an active Zika virus infection, and then bites another person, thereby spreading the disease. There is no record of such a transmission occurring in the United States. The mosquito that spreads Zika, called *Aedes*, is mostly found in tropical countries. It is the same mosquito that spreads other viruses such as dengue fever. No *Aedes* mosquitos have been found in San Francisco.

The San Francisco Health Department issued advisories to health care providers on January 22, 2016 and February 12, 2016 informing them that the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a travel alert for people traveling to areas where Zika virus transmission is ongoing. Pregnant women are advised to consider postponing travel to these countries, and all travelers are advised to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites. Women who are pregnant and have sexual partner(s) that have traveled to areas with Zika are advised to abstain from sex or use condoms consistently for the duration of the pregnancy in order to prevent sexual transmission of Zika.

For more information, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/> or <http://www.sfcdp.org/zika>

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**The mission of the San Francisco Department of Public Health is to protect and promote the health of all San Franciscans.**

We shall ~ Assess and research the health of the community ~ Develop and enforce health policy ~ Prevent disease and injury ~  
~ Educate the public and train health care providers ~ Provide quality, comprehensive, culturally-proficient health services ~ Ensure equal access to all ~

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