



City and County of San Francisco
Edwin M. Lee, Mayor

San Francisco Department of Public Health

Barbara A. Garcia, MPA
Director of Health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 15, 2016

Contact: DPH Communications Office, 415 554-2716

San Francisco confirms three new cases of Zika virus, bringing total to five Patients contracted the virus during travel outside the United States No risk to public health, Zika not circulating in San Francisco

San Francisco —The Department of Public Health reports that a total of five San Francisco residents have tested positive for the Zika virus as of July 8, with three new cases diagnosed in the last two weeks. All the patients contracted the virus while traveling in countries where Zika virus is circulating. There is no risk to the public, and Zika is not circulating in San Francisco, the Bay Area or California.

“Since it is summer travel season, we want to remind San Franciscans who are planning to travel to countries where Zika virus is circulating to protect themselves from mosquito bites, and to caution pregnant women to avoid unnecessary travel to these areas,” said Dr. Tomas Aragon, Health Officer of San Francisco.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) informed the San Francisco Health Department of the positive test results. CDPH continues to update and publish weekly a tally of the number of Zika cases by county, and provides pregnancy information in the aggregate. <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Documents/TravelAssociatedCasesofZikaVirusinCA.pdf>

San Francisco reported its first case on March 3, second on April 22, and the three new confirmations today. The San Francisco Health Department will provide no further details on local Zika cases, in order to protect patient privacy.

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 Latin America, the Caribbean and some of the Pacific Islands. Zika is known to cause birth defects, including microcephaly (a baby being born with a small head), if a mother is infected during her pregnancy. Research to understand the risk of birth defects after maternal Zika infection is ongoing. Sexual transmission of Zika virus from men to women and men to men also has been observed. There is no Zika vaccine at this time, but global research is underway.

Pregnant women are advised to refrain from unnecessary travel to areas where Zika is circulating. 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. People traveling to an area where Zika is circulating should protect themselves against mosquito bites.

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 ~

101 Grove Street, Room 308, San Francisco, CA 94102 • Phone: 415-554-2600

The mosquito that spreads Zika, called *Aedes*, is the same mosquito that spreads other viruses such as dengue fever. No *Aedes* mosquitos have been found in San Francisco. There have been no cases of mosquito-borne transmission of Zika virus in the United States.

The San Francisco Health Department has resources in English and Spanish to provide pertinent information to pregnant women and travelers. These materials are available at: <http://www.sfcddcp.com/zika>

For more information, visit <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Zika.aspx> or <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/>.

###