



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

*Updated as of August 26, 2016*

**Contact:** DPH Communications Office, 415 554-2716

## San Francisco Public Health Officials urge travelers to take Zika infection prevention measures

**San Francisco** — Health officials urge the public to take precautions if traveling to Zika-affected countries. Zika is a virus that is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. The mosquito that spreads Zika, called *Aedes*, has not been found in San Francisco. Zika virus is not currently circulating in San Francisco, the Bay Area or California.

Zika can cause birth defects, such as microcephaly, if a woman is infected during pregnancy. Zika virus is currently circulating in most countries of Central and South America and the Caribbean, as well as several U.S. Territories and Pacific Islands and parts of Miami-Dade County in Florida, US.

Pregnant women or those planning pregnancy should consider postponing nonessential travel to Zika-affected areas until after the pregnancy. Anyone who travels to a Zika-affected area should take precautions to avoid mosquito bites. Recommendations include using approved mosquito repellents (such as DEET), screens, mosquito nets, and clothing that covers as much of the body as possible.

Zika virus can also be transmitted sexually. Travelers to Zika-affected areas should use condoms or other barrier methods for 8 weeks after return to avoid transmitting Zika to their sexual partners. Pregnant women whose partners have traveled should use condoms for the entire pregnancy.

As of August 26, 14 San Francisco residents have been diagnosed with Zika infection. All the patients contracted the virus while traveling in countries where Zika virus is circulating. In California, as of August 26, 189 residents have been diagnosed with Zika, including 25 pregnant women. All of these cases are associated with travel.

Individuals, especially pregnant women, concerned about possible Zika virus infection should talk to their medical provider.

For more information, visit:

- California Department of Public Health: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Zika.aspx>
- CDC Zika website: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/>
- CDC's up-to-date list of Zika-affected areas: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/index.html> CDC mosquito bite prevention: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/avoid-bug-bites>
- CDC Zika travel information: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/zika-travel-information>
- CDC Stay Healthy on the Road to Rio infographic: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/infographic-rio-olympics>
- Para información en Español: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/es/index.html>
- SF Department of Public Health Zika webpage: <http://www.sfcddp.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 ~

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

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