

What is Congenital CMV?

- Congenital Cytomegalovirus (CMV) is the most common cause of birth defects and childhood disabilities in the US
- CMV causes symptoms similar to the common cold - pregnant mother develops an active infection, she can pass the virus to her unborn baby

What you should know about CMV

- CMV causes more injury to newborns than Down's Syndrome, Neural Tube Defects, and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome combined
- Approximately 1 in 150 newborn infants is born with CMV
- 1 in every 5 babies born with CMV will suffer a permanent disability
- CMV is the leading cause of non-hereditary deafness in children
- CMV has the potential to cause intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, seizures, blindness, and brain damage
- If detected early, treatment can start immediately and could prevent lifelong health issues
- Less than 1 in 5 pregnant women are even aware of CMV!

You can help

- Support the “Vivian Act” that will bring education and awareness to CMV in Minnesota. Awareness of what CMV is, how to prevent it, and how to treat the illness is the first step. Prevention and early intervention is critical.

