

# STOP CMV *The CMV Action Network*

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Stop CMV/The CMV Action Network - [www.stopcmv.com](http://www.stopcmv.com)  
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### **Stop CMV Creates Online Forums, Social Networking for Parents, Clinicians and Public Interaction**

March 2, 2009 - Stop CMV announced this week the creation and launch of new online forums which allow parents of children born with Congenital Cytomegalovirus (CMV) to interact together, as well as with clinicians in the field of CMV research and treatment. The public and members of the press are also invited to join and participate in the online forums to learn more about dangers of CMV to pregnant women and their unborn children. "These forums are the first of their kind in the CMV community...we are hoping to address a wide variety of topics and needs and hopefully tap into the groundswell of parents and public looking to reach out, support one another, and get involved in Congenital CMV activism", says Janelle Greenlee, founder of Stop CMV and the CMV Action Network.

Topics addressed in the forums include everything from prenatal CMV testing and prevention tips to how to best advocate for and raise a CMV child. "Stop CMV's new forums provide a place to gather online to discuss ways of dealing with Congenital CMV issues while helping to empower the CMV crowd. As awareness of Congenital CMV grows, the need to gather and organize talent from all walks of life is going to be key to pushing awareness and solutions forward", explains Wade Chambers, Technical Advisor with Stop CMV. "The forums' ability to help provide solutions for those in need now while creating the crowd necessary to create the long-term changes needed are crucial to any progress we make as an organization and community...I'm excited to be a part of it."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1 in every 150 children (approximately 40,000) are born with Congenital CMV infection in the United States each year. CMV is the most common cause of congenital (meaning from birth) viral infection in the United States and is more common than other well known birth defects, such as Down Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. Babies born with Congenital CMV can have varying degrees of brain malformations which can lead to developmental disabilities, such as deafness, blindness, cerebral palsy, mental and/or physical retardation, and even death. CMV is present in saliva, urine, tears, blood, mucus, and other bodily fluids and is most commonly found among healthy infants, toddlers, preschoolers and children who contract and carry the virus. The CDC recommends that pregnant women practice frequent handwashing and other precautionary measures around infants, toddlers and small children.

Stop CMV and the CMV Action Network are the first parents groups to work collaboratively with the CDC and the National Congenital CMV Disease Registry to bring information about the dangers of Congenital CMV to communities around the United States and the world. Since 2003, Stop CMV has been a grassroots organization with a basic, informative presence online, working to foster awareness via public awareness campaigns. For information about how to contact a Representative in your area, please visit [www.stopcmv.com/chapters.php](http://www.stopcmv.com/chapters.php). If you do not see your area listed, please contact [info@stopcmv.com](mailto:info@stopcmv.com) for assistance.