

Countywide Services Agency

Department of
Health and Human Services

Division of Public Health

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County of Sacramento

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For Immediate Release

National HIV Testing Day is Saturday, June 27 Free HIV Testing Sites Open Throughout Sacramento County!

(Sacramento, CA) – Ten Sacramento area health and community service agencies are urging sexually active Sacramento residents to get tested for HIV on Saturday, June 27th - the 15th Annual National HIV Testing Day. "In Sacramento County alone, there are over 3,000 people known to be infected with HIV/AIDS," says Staci Syas, Sacramento County HIV Prevention Program Coordinator. "However, about one in four people currently infected with HIV are unaware that they are infected. On National HIV Testing Day, we're offering free, confidential testing at various locations throughout Sacramento, throughout the day and evening, to make it convenient for everyone to get tested and know their status."

The County's HIV Prevention Program has released a promotional video publicizing HIV Testing Day, featuring people affected by HIV and involved in local HIV prevention efforts. (View it at: www.KnowYourStatus916.com.)

Nationwide, more than 1.1 million Americans are living with HIV, including over 415,000 living with AIDS. Thirty-one percent of new infections are the result of unprotected heterosexual sex. Men who have sex with men account for 42% of new infections, particularly young and/or minority men. The impact of AIDS on women is rapidly increasing, with 30% of new infections occurring among women. By race, African Americans represent 46% of new HIV infections, Caucasians represent 34%, Latinos represent 17%, and Asian/PI represent 2.6 %. Recently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) revised its estimates of the number of new infections occurring annually in the US. Previously, the CDC estimated that there were 40,000 new infections each year, but in 2008, data indicated there were approximately 56,300 new cases in 2006, which represents a 40% increase over previous estimates.

Sacramento County Department of Health & Human Services, community based organizations, clinics, as well as concerned HIV-positive and affected individuals will participate in HIV Testing Day events.

(Continued)

Free, confidential HIV antibody testing, counseling, and information will be available at several locations including health clinics, bars, churches, and social service agencies. Many sites will offer free "Rapid Testing," which gives a preliminary HIV test result in 20 minutes.

The CDC estimates that one in four people infected with HIV do not know their status, and that the majority of new infections are passed by those who unaware that they have HIV. HIV testing enables people who test positive for HIV to take steps to protect their own health and that of their partners, and helps people who test negative to get the information they need to stay uninfected. "Getting tested for HIV is the most important step a person can take," says Craig Spatola, Executive Director of Breaking Barriers Community Services Center. "If you are HIV negative you can get help to stay that way, and if you are HIV positive you can get medical care and avoid passing it on." Individuals who have had unprotected sex, shared needles, or were born from an HIV-positive mother should be tested for HIV.

This year marks the 15th Annual National HIV Testing Day. Every year on June 27, thousands of health departments, community based organizations, private, educational and media entities, as well as concerned HIV-positive and affected individuals participate in Testing Day events.

For more information about National HIV Testing Day or to locate an HIV testing site in Sacramento, please call (916) 875-6022 or visit:

www.KnowYourStatus916.com

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National HIV Testing Day

June 27, 2009

Is HIV/AIDS still a big problem in the Sacramento area?

- In Sacramento County, over 3,000 people are living with HIV or AIDS.
- Less people are dying from AIDS, but HIV infections are still increasing every year.
- African Americans make up about 11% of Sacramento County's population, but represent 22% of all HIV cases.
- 54% of Sacramento County's women with AIDS are African American. (1999-2006 cumulative cases)
- Women make up 20% of HIV infections in Sacramento County.
- 55% of new HIV cases were passed by male-to-male sexual contact, and 18% contracted HIV through heterosexual sex.

If HIV is 100% preventable, why are so many people still getting infected?

- About 1 out of 4 people with HIV don't know they have it. These people may be passing the virus on unknowingly to others by having sex without a condom, or sharing injection needles with others.
- Some people are not talking to their partners about their HIV status, and they're having unprotected sex or sharing needles with them. It is so important to talk to your partners and get tested for HIV.
- The only way to know if you have HIV is by getting tested!

What is National HIV Testing Day?

- This year, Saturday June 27 is the 15th annual National HIV Testing Day.
- National HIV Testing Day is an opportunity for people to get tested for HIV and know their status. If they're negative, they can learn how to stay HIV negative. And if they're positive, our trained test counselors can hook them up to services and treatment to keep them as healthy as possible.

What's happening in Sacramento County for National HIV Testing Day?

- 10 clinics and community based agencies have formed a collaborative to promote HIV Testing Day and provide free HIV testing services in the Sacramento area. Several agencies are providing testing at convenient off-site locations, such as popular nightclubs and neighborhood churches. Some are having food, entertainment, or full STD and health screenings.
- The KBMB van will be at the testing location at 24th and Florin from noon-3pm!
- A list of National HIV Testing Day locations, times, and other helpful information can be found on the website www.KnowYourStatus916.com, or they can call (916) 875-6022 for testing sites.
- Most HIV testing locations are free, and services are always confidential. Testing is done by a blood draw or oral swab test.
- Many of these clinics offer the Rapid HIV Test, which provides a preliminary result in 20 minutes. This test is just as accurate as the blood or oral swab test.

Why is it important for people to know their HIV status?

- If a person is HIV-negative, they can learn how to stay negative. HIV test counseling includes discussing how a person can reduce their risk for HIV infection.
- If a person is HIV-positive, they can be connected to treatment and support services to stay as healthy as possible. Additionally, they can take steps to not pass HIV on to their partner(s).
- Partner Counseling Referral Services (PCRS) is a free service that helps people with HIV or STDs notify current or past partners that they may have been exposed to HIV/STD, and offers them testing and referrals.

How is HIV passed, and how can people prevent HIV infection?

- HIV is passed through infected blood, semen, vaginal fluid, or breast milk. Unprotected sex or sharing needles are the two riskiest behaviors for contracting HIV.
- Not having sex or injecting drugs are the only 100% certain ways to not get HIV. When used correctly, latex or polyurethane condoms are 99% effective in preventing HIV transmission. For drug users, not sharing needles or other injection equipment contaminated with blood.
- The City of Sacramento has legalized free needle exchange and pharmacy sales of syringes, so anyone can access clean needles.

How can people get more information about HIV or National HIV Testing Day?

- Visit our website KnowYourStatus916.com for a list of HIV testing locations, or call 875-6022.

Saturday, June 27: National HIV Testing Day locations

South Sacramento

Antioch Progressive Baptist Church

7650 Amherst Street, Sacramento, CA 95832 (916) 427-4653

12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Free oral swab test. No appointment needed.

Testing by Golden Rule Services.

The Gardens

2251 Florin Road #129, Sacramento, CA 95822 (916) 427-4653

12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Free oral swab test. No appointment needed.

Testing by Golden Rule Services. Check out the KBMB 103.5FM van on location!

Planned Parenthood - Fruitridge Health Center

5385 Franklin Blvd., Suite A-D, Sacramento, CA 95820 (916) 452-7305

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Rapid HIV Test (result in 20 minutes) or blood test. Appointment recommended.

Free to those who qualify for FamilyPACT, otherwise fee for service. Call for info.

Oak Park

Harm Reduction Services

3647 40th Street, Sacramento, CA 95817 (916) 456-4849
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Free Rapid HIV Test (result in 20 minutes). No appointment needed.
Free BBQ and entertainment.

Joan Viteri Memorial Clinic

3647 40th Street, Sacramento, CA 95817 (916) 734-5070 x60510
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Free blood test. Additional health services and screenings also available. First come first served. Appointment recommended.
Testing by UC Davis School of Medicine.

Midtown Area

CARES Clinic

1500 21st Street, Sacramento, CA 95811 (916) 914-6253
10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Free Rapid HIV Test (result in 20 minutes). Free STD testing also available. No appointment needed.

McMartin Realty Parking Lot (across from Faces Nightclub)

2031 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95811 (916) 447-2437

12:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Free Rapid HIV Test (result in 20 minutes). No appointment needed.
Testing by Breaking Barriers Community Service Center.

Planned Parenthood - B Street Health Center

201 29th Street, Suite B, Sacramento, CA 95816 (916) 446-6921
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Rapid HIV Test (result in 20 minutes) or blood draw. Appointment recommended.

Free to those who qualify for FamilyPACT, otherwise fee for service.
Call for info.

North Highlands

Maap, Inc. North

3437 Myrtle Ave. #420, North Highlands, CA 95660 (916) 879-0696
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Free Oral Swab Test. No appointment needed.

Roseville

Planned Parenthood - Roseville Health Center

729 Sunrise Ave., Suite 900, Roseville, CA 95661 (916) 781-3310

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Rapid HIV Test (result in 20 minutes) or blood test. Appointment recommended.

Free to those who qualify for FamilyPACT, otherwise fee for service. Call for info.