

JUNE 27TH IS NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY DHD#10 Offers Free HIV Testing

June 24, 2019 - The U.S. recognizes June 27th, 2019, as National HIV Testing Day. This day brings awareness to the importance of getting tested for HIV. Getting tested, and knowing your HIV status is crucial; leading to earlier treatment and protecting others from the spread of the virus. District Health Department #10 (DHD#10) recognizes the importance of HIV testing by offer free, confidential HIV tests by appointment. Testing for other STDs is also available for a reasonable fee.

Currently, around 1.1 million people in the United States are living with HIV, and one in seven people don't know they have it. Nearly 45,000 people find out they have HIV every year. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 90% of these new cases could be prevented by testing and diagnosis.

The CDC recommends that everyone between the ages of 13-64 get tested for HIV at least once. Women who are pregnant should be tested to protect their health and to prevent the spread of HIV to their baby. Those with certain risk factors should be tested at least once a year; these risk factors include:

- People with more than one sexual partner
- People that have contracted a sexually transmitted disease (STD)
- People who inject drugs
- Sexually active gay and bisexual men

“DHD#10 offers free and confidential HIV screening year-round with an appointment during clinic hours. This is a perfect time to come in and get tested and have your questions answered,” said Dr. Jennifer Morse, Medical Director for DHD#10. To make an appointment call 888-217-3904, Press #2. People may also receive HIV testing through their normal health care provider. To learn more about HIV and the importance of testing, visit www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/whatishiv.html.

About DHD #10

District Health Department #10 (DHD #10) is Michigan's largest geographical health department, mandated to promote and protect the public from unsafe and hazardous conditions and provide methods of promoting good health and disease prevention. Some of the vital programs provided by DHD #10 include Immunizations, Infectious Disease Control, STI Testing and Counseling, WIC, Maternal Infant Health Program, Healthy Families Northern Michigan, Children's Special Health Services, Hearing and Vision Screening, Family Planning, Cancer Screening, Worksite Wellness, Smoking Cessation, Substance Use Prevention, Chronic Disease Prevention, and Environmental Health Services. DHD #10 serves Crawford, Kalkaska, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Missaukee, Newaygo, Oceana, and Wexford counties. For more information, visit www.dhd10.org.



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