



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JUNE 27 IS NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY

At-Risk Individuals Urged to Receive Free, Confidential HIV Counseling and Testing

YPSILANTI, Mich., June 25, 2007—Washtenaw County Public Health Department officials today encouraged individuals unaware of their HIV status, or that of their sex or needle-sharing partners, to visit the Washtenaw County Health Department for free and anonymous HIV testing. June 27th is National HIV Testing Day, a day to “take the test and take control.” Appointments can be made by calling (734) 544- 6840.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 180,000 to 280,000 people nationwide are HIV-positive, but are unaware of their status. HIV counseling and testing enables people with HIV to take steps to protect their own health and that of their partners. Testing is the first step.

Every year in Washtenaw County there are 25-30 newly diagnosed cases of HIV. Data from the 2005 Washtenaw County Health Improvement Plan (HIP) survey indicates that 48% of Washtenaw County residents age 18-64 have been tested for HIV, while 52% have not. In addition, 5% of respondents told survey takers they had participated in behaviors that put them at risk for acquiring HIV.

Appointment times at the Health Department’s Adult Health Clinic include: Mondays (1-9 p.m.), Wednesdays (9-4 p.m.), Thursdays (6-9 p.m.), and Fridays (9-12 p.m.). Walk-in appointments cannot be accommodated at this time. The Adult Clinic provides free, anonymous, or confidential counseling and testing for HIV, free testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and “Plan First” pap smears and birth control for eligible women.

In addition to staffing its Adult Clinic on June 27, the Health Department will participate in two outreach activities that will focus on providing free testing and counseling services to the community. In collaboration with the HIV/AIDS Resource Center (HARC), Health Department staff members will visit the Metropolitan Memorial Baptist Church in Ypsilanti to conduct confidential testing for HIV, STDs, and Hepatitis B and C. Staff will also provide referral services, as required.

Fax: (734) 544-6706
Communicable Disease

Fax: (734) 544-6704
Administration

Fax: (734) 544-6705
Public Health

HEARING IMPAIRED: (734) 994-1733

WEB ADDRESSES: <http://www.ewashtenaw.org>

<http://publichealth.ewashtenaw.org>



“This church is a great example of a community of faith extending its reach, influence, and commitment to serving people into the surrounding community,” said Cathleen Wilczynski, Family Nurse Practitioner at the Washtenaw County Public Health Department. “We hope other churches and community groups will follow this church’s example of ‘being the change they want to see in the world.’”

The Health Department will also be providing HIV/STD outreach testing for the homeless populations in Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor.

Initiated in 1995 by the National Association of People with AIDS and supported by CDC, National HIV Testing Day is held each year on June 27. This event increases awareness of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and promotes early diagnosis and testing for HIV. Visit WWW.HIVTEST.ORG for more details.

For more information about the Washtenaw County Public Health Department, or about its HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services, please visit <http://publichealth.ewashtenaw.org> or call (734) 544-6700.