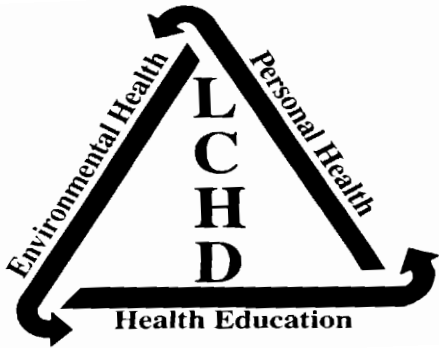


MEDIA RELEASE



Date: June 20, 2024

To: All Media

From: LaSalle County Health Department
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Ottawa, IL 61350

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For Immediate Release

"NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS, contact Leslie Dougherty or Jenny Barrie at 433-3366.

Ottawa, IL – June 27 is National HIV Testing Day, an annual occasion to encourage people to get an HIV test. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 get tested for HIV at least once as part of routine health care. People at higher risk should get tested more often. The goal of the campaign is to identify people who don't know they are HIV positive so they can access treatment. LaSalle County Health Department offers free rapid HIV finger stick tests and encourage interested individuals to come on June 27th between 9:00 am – 3:00pm. Appointments are strongly recommended to ensure adequate staffing. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), currently almost 40 percent of people with HIV are not diagnosed until they already have developed AIDS. That can be up to 10 years after they have become infected with HIV. In the United States, nearly 1.2 million people are living with HIV, and about 13 percent of them don't know it and need testing.

While we have made tremendous strides in treating HIV disease and related infections, those advances mean little to someone who doesn't know they are infected. If you have ever had unprotected sex with someone who uses injectable drugs, if you have ever shared needles, if you are a man who has ever had sex with another man, or if you have other factors that put you at risk for HIV infection, you should consider getting an HIV test. Today more tools than ever are available to prevent HIV. In addition to limiting your number of sexual partners, never sharing needles and using condoms correctly and consistently, you can reduce your risk.

To learn more information about HIV, contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366. You can also access our website at www.lasallecountyil.gov, or like us on Facebook/Twitter.



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