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HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Several Free Testing Opportunities in Honor of  
Eleventh Annual National HIV Testing Day**

**GRAND RAPIDS** – Saturday, June 27, 2015 marks the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual National HIV Testing Day. The Kent County Health Department (KCHD) is making it easy for everyone to talk – and get tested - during the week of National HIV Testing Day: a quick, painless finger poke test, which gives you preliminary results in just 20 minutes. KCHD was very successful in outreach efforts last year, testing 110 people.

In July 2014, 875 people in Kent County were living with HIV; the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services estimates 1080 have the virus. That means 205 people may be undiagnosed. The Kent County Health Department is offering four opportunities to get tested, without an appointment, free and confidentially. When you get tested at one of these events, you will receive a gift card\* for your time, education about HIV and prevention, and steps you can take to protect those you love from HIV. (\*Gift cards are only available while supplies last.) Testing events include:

- Monday, June 22: North County Clinic, 4388 14 Mile Rd NE, Rockford  
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 23: South Clinic, 4700 Kalamazoo Ave. SE, Kentwood  
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 24: Sheldon Clinic, 121 Franklin SE, Grand Rapids  
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Thursday, June 25: Main Clinic Location, 700 Fuller Ave. NE, Grand Rapids  
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

“One in five people living with HIV don’t know it, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,” says Adam London, Administrative Health Officer for the Kent County Health Department. “Today, we know that early diagnosis and early treatment of HIV can lead to longer, healthier lives.” There are medications available today that can strengthen the immune system. While awaiting test results, our certified counselors will work to answer all your questions, and discuss your risk for infection and prevention methods, in a friendly, non-judgmental manner. You can also make an appointment for testing by calling 616.632.7171.

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KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 265 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and three satellite clinics located in Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit [www.accesskent.com/health](http://www.accesskent.com/health).

700 FULLER AVE. NE, GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503