
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 22, 2012

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**Free, Anonymous Testing in Honor of
National HIV Testing Day**

GRAND RAPIDS - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that one in five people living with HIV in the United States today don't know their status. Wednesday marks the 18th annual National HIV Testing Day. The Kent County Health Department is making it easy for everyone to know their status.

HIV, Human Immunodeficiency Virus, attacks the cells that make up the body's immune system. HIV makes it difficult to fight off colds and other infections. There are medications available today that can strengthen the immune system. Left untreated, HIV can develop into Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome – AIDS – which can be deadly. Testing is quick and painless, and preliminary results can be obtained in about 20 minutes. The Kent County Health Department will hold several educational and testing opportunities in honor of the week:

June 25, 2012: Free, anonymous HIV testing from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at KCHD's Sheldon Clinic, located at the corner of Sheldon and Franklin, on Grand Rapids southeast side.

June 26, 2012: We will again be at the Sheldon Clinic for Latino Outreach Day doing free, anonymous, HIV testing from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

June 27, 2012: **National HIV Testing Day** - Free, walk-in testing will be available Wednesday at the Kent County Health Department's Main Clinic, located at 700 Fuller NE, Grand Rapids, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

June 28th, 2012: Free, anonymous, HIV testing at Heartside Ministries from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Protect yourself from HIV. The Kent County Health Department's Main Clinic at 700 Fuller NE in Grand Rapids offers free condoms. More information about HIV and AIDS can be found at:

<https://www.accesskent.com/Health/HealthDepartment/PersonalHealth/pdfs/FactSheets/HIVFactSheet.pdf>

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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 260 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 four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.

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