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HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 27, 2013

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**Health Department Offers Testing  
Opportunities in Recognition of World AIDS Day 2013**

GRAND RAPIDS, MI – More than one million people in the United States are living with HIV, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Sunday, December 1 is World AIDS Day. The Kent County Health Department is making it easy for everyone to know their status: a quick, painless finger poke test can yield preliminary results in about 20 minutes. Our Personal Health Services staff members are certified counselors who are friendly, non-judgmental and happy to answer all your questions.

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.)

**Monday, December 2:** 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Health Department, 700 Fuller NE, Grand Rapids

**Tuesday, December 3:** 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Sheldon Clinic, 121 Franklin SE, Grand Rapids

**Friday, December 6:** 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Wyoming Clinic, 852 47th Street SW, Wyoming

**Friday, December 6:** 1 p.m. -4 p.m. Kentwood Clinic, 1620 44th St SE, Kentwood

“Testing and early diagnosis can save lives,” said Adam London, Administrative Health Officer for the Kent County Health Department. “Preliminary results take about 20 minutes. Our dedicated staff provides important information about prevention of HIV and AIDS during that wait.”

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.

You can make an appointment for testing by calling 616.632.7171. More information can be found at: <http://www.accesskent.com/Health/PersonalHealth/pdfs/HIVFactSheet.pdf>.

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](http://www.accesskent.com/health).