NO-COST HIV TESTING AND MORE TO HIGHLIGHT HIV TESTING DAY IN TAMPA BAY

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Tampa Bay, FL — National HIV Testing Day, June 27, has been observed since 1995 to raise awareness about the importance of HIV testing and early diagnosis of HIV. This year's theme, “Doing It My Way,” highlights how and why people make testing a part of their lives.

To encourage people to know their HIV status within minutes, the Florida Department of Health in Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas and Polk counties are teaming up to provide numerous opportunities in the Tampa Bay area for no-cost HIV testing on Thursday, June 27, at the following locations and times.

- Citrus County HIV testing from 1 to 4 p.m. at:
  o Citrus Health Department: 3700 W. Sovereign Path in Lecanto
- Hernando County HIV testing available by appointment. Call 352-540-6800.
- Hillsborough County HIV testing (includes no-cost testing for chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis, and no-cost hepatitis A and HPV vaccines) from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at:
  o University Area Health Center: 13601 N. 22nd St. in Tampa
  o Specialty Care Center: 1105 E. Kennedy Blvd in Tampa
- Manatee County HIV testing (includes no-cost hepatitis A vaccines) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at:
  o Manatee Health Department: 410 6th Ave. E. in Bradenton
- Pasco County HIV testing (includes no-cost testing for hepatitis C and no-cost hepatitis A vaccines) from 3 to 9 p.m. at:
  o The Asylum Nightclub: 6153 Massachusetts Ave. in New Port Richey
- Pinellas County HIV testing from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at:
  o St. Petersburg Health Department: 205 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St. N.
  o Pinellas Park Health Department: 6350 76th Ave. N.
  o Mid-County (Largo) Health Department: 8751 Ulmerton Rd.
  o Clearwater Health Department: 310 N. Myrtle Ave.
  o Tarpon Springs Health Department: 301 S. Disston Ave.
- Polk County HIV testing from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at:
  o Auburndale Health Department: 1805 Hobbs Rd.
  o Bartow Specialty Care Clinic: 1255 Brice Blvd.
  o Haines City Health Department: 1700 Baker Ave. E.
  o Lakeland Health Department: 3241 Lakeland Hills Blvd.
  o Walgreens: 311 E. Memorial Blvd. in Lakeland
In 2017, 116,944 Floridians were confirmed to be living with HIV. An estimated 18,000 more were living with HIV but unaware of it. “To see these numbers come down in our state, we need to recognize the role of stigma as a barrier to getting tested,” said department HIV/AIDS Section Administrator Laura Reeves. “Normalizing HIV testing and making sure there’s a testing option that works for everyone is one way to reduce stigma. This is important, because knowing your HIV status gives you the power to make informed decisions about your health. Our goal is to work with our partners to make sure every Floridian has that power.”

For more information, please call 1-800-FLA-AIDS or visit KnowYourHIVStatus.com.

About the Florida Department of Health

The department, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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