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National HIV Testing Day

June 27, 2014

TB, HIV, STD, & Viral HEPATITIS PROGRAM -HIV PREVENTION PROGRAM

In recognition of National HIV Testing Day (June 27th), the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) is encouraging Connecticut residents to get tested for HIV.

“Getting tested for HIV gives people a chance to take control and know their status” said DPH Commissioner Dr. Jewel Mullen. “If you find out you are infected with HIV you can seek medical care and get treatment, which helps people with HIV live longer, healthier lives. Knowing your status can also lower the chances of passing HIV to others.

HIV & AIDS

- **The Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is the virus that causes AIDS.**
- **AIDS or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, a disease that causes the body to lose its natural protection against infection.**
- **Unlike some other viruses, the human body cannot get rid of HIV. This means that once you have HIV, you have it for life.**
- **HIV is spread mainly by having sex or sharing drug injection equipment with someone who is infected with HIV.**
- **Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (MSM) are most affected by HIV.**

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that approximately one in five people with HIV do not know they are infected.

- **Over 10,000 Connecticut residents are known to be living with HIV.**
- **Over 2,000 additional people in the state may have HIV but do not know it.**



GET THE TEST!

Anyone who is 13 years of age or older can be treated or tested confidentially and without parental consent. The CDC recommends that everyone 13-64 years old to be tested for HIV. Several agencies throughout the state offer HIV testing at no charge. Visit www.ct.gov/dph/hivtesting, or call 860-509-7801 to find out where to get tested.

Connecticut Department of Public Health
410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06134
www.ct.gov/dph

In addition, people can locate local HIV testing sites by visiting www.HIVtest.org or sending a text message with their ZIP code to **KNOWIT (566948)**.

In 2009, the Connecticut General Assembly passed House Bill 6391, An Act Concerning Revisions to the HIV Testing Consent Law. This law, which went into effect July 1, 2009, facilitates routine HIV screening in health care settings by eliminating the requirement for a separate written or oral consent for HIV testing, Testing is still voluntary.

“WE CAN HELP”

The Connecticut Department of Public is the state’s leader in public health policy and advocacy with a mission to protect and promote the health and safety of the people of our state. To contact the Department please visit its website www.ct.gov/dph or call 860-509-7270.