



Eastern Idaho Public Health

1250 Hollipark Drive • Idaho Falls, ID 83401 • Phone: (208) 522-0310 • www.EIPH.Idaho.gov

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 23, 2016

Contact: Mimi Taylor, PIO
Office: (208) 533-3155
Cell: (208) 521-6722

World AIDS Day is December 1, Free HIV Testing Available

EASTERN IDAHO – World AIDS Day is observed on December 1 of every year and is dedicated to raising awareness of AIDS caused by the spread of HIV infection. Every year, events take place across the country to raise awareness and show support for people living with HIV/AIDS.

In recognition of World AIDS Day, Eastern Idaho Public Health (EIPH) will be offering **free** confidential rapid HIV tests to encourage residents of eastern Idaho to know their HIV status. If you have ever had unprotected sex or shared needles, you could have been exposed to HIV. There's only one way to know – **GET TESTED!** The schedule for FREE, confidential testing is listed below. Please call and schedule an appointment.

EIPH Office Location:	Date of Testing:	For appointment, call:
Bonneville County	December 5 – 9, 2016	(208) 525-7245
Clark County	All month – December 2016	(208) 374-5216
Custer County	All month – December 2016	(208) 879-2504
Fremont County	All month – December 2016	(208) 624-7585
Jefferson County	All month – December 2016	(208) 745-7297
Lemhi County	All month – December 2016	(208) 756-2123
Madison County	All month – December 2016	(208) 356-3239
Teton County	All month – December 2016	(208) 354-2220

The rapid HIV test is similar to a pregnancy test, using blood from a finger stick instead of urine. It provides results in about 15 minutes. If test results are reactive, blood will be drawn from the patient for a second test for confirmation.

-more-

HIV stands for human immunodeficiency virus. It is the virus that can lead to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, or AIDS. Unlike some other viruses, the human body cannot get rid of HIV. That means that once you have HIV, you have it for life.

HIV is spread through contact with the blood, semen, vaginal fluids, or breast milk of an infected person. Sharing syringes and needles can expose a person to blood infected with HIV. Infected women can pass the virus to their babies during pregnancy, childbirth, and breastfeeding.

Early detection of HIV infection reduces the potential that a person may unknowingly spread HIV. "It is recommended that everyone gets tested for HIV at least once. Detecting HIV, like other diseases, can lead to better health outcomes if found early," says Nikki Sayer, EIPH's Reproductive Health Program Manager.

If you have any questions about HIV, AIDS, or World AIDS Day, please contact Mimi Taylor at 533-3151. Information can also be found on the following website: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/>.

###