



# Eastern Idaho Public Health

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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **World AIDS Day is December 1, Free HIV & STD Testing Available**

*AIDS Memorial Quilt to be Displayed in Idaho Falls*

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), in partnership with Breaking Boundaries, will be offering **free**, confidential rapid HIV and other STD (chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis) testing to encourage residents of eastern Idaho to know their status. If you have ever had unprotected sex or shared needles, you could have been exposed to HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. There is only one way to know – **GET TESTED!** The schedule for FREE, confidential testing is listed below. Please call and schedule an appointment.

<b>Office Location:</b>	<b>Date of Testing:</b>	<b>For appointment, Please Call:</b>
Bonneville County (Idaho Falls)	December 17   9 a.m. - 5 p.m. December 18   9 a.m. - 3 p.m. December 19   8 a.m. - 12 p.m.	(208) 525-7245
Clark County (Dubois)	December 18   10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	(208) 374-5216
Custer County (Challis)	December 16   9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	(208) 879-2504
Fremont County (St. Anthony)	December 16   9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	(208) 624-7585
Jefferson County (Rigby) Jefferson County (Mud Lake)	December 6   9 a.m. - 12 p.m. December 19   10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	(208) 745-7297 (208) 663-4840
Lemhi County (Salmon)	December 17   9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	(208) 756-2123
Madison County (Rexburg)	December 19   9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	(208) 356-3239
Teton County (Driggs)	December 16   9-11 a.m. & 1-3 p.m.	(208) 354-2220

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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 also 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 in their lifetime, more frequently if recommended by a health care provider. Detecting HIV, like other diseases, can lead to better health outcomes if found early,” says Nikki Sayer, EIPH’s Nurse Manager.

In addition, the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display for the public to view at the Elks Lodge (640 E. Elva – Idaho Falls). This is a **free** event. The dates and times the quilt is available for viewing are listed below.

- Tuesday, December 3 – 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 4 – 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, December 5 – 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The AIDS Memorial Quilt is an enormous quilt made as a memorial to and celebration of the lives of people who have died of AIDS-related causes. Each 3' by 6' panel is the size of a human grave. Since the quilt is so large, it is not displayed in its entirety. The AIDS Memorial Quilt display in Idaho Falls is one of the larger quilt displays in the country. The quilt is a solemn reminder of the devastation that the HIV/AIDS epidemic has had on our country.

If you have any questions about HIV, AIDS, World AIDS Day or the AIDS Memorial Quilt, please contact Mimi Taylor at (208) 533-3155.

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