



NEWS



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National HIV Testing Day: We're Doing It *Health Department offering free HIV testing June 27th*

BLOOMINGTON, IL- In observance of National HIV Testing Day, the Personal Health Services Department at the McLean County Health Department will offer free, confidential HIV testing and counseling on Tuesday June 27th, from 10 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. in room 139. No appointments are necessary and testing is open to individuals 13 years of age and older. The health department is located at 200 West Front St. in Bloomington.

Upon arrival, individuals are given a number and from then on referred to only by number throughout their visit. Total testing time is approximately 30 minutes and participants will know their results before they leave. The process includes a pre- and post-testing session with an HIV counselor.

"Knowing your status allows people to make more informed decisions about their health and helps reduce the spread of HIV," says Communicable Disease Supervisor Melissa Graven.

Although there have been significant advances made in the treatment and prevention of HIV and AIDS, there is still no vaccine or cure for these diseases. An estimated one million people are currently living with HIV or AIDS in the United States, however nearly 25 percent of individuals in the United States who are HIV positive do not know they are infected.

The McLean County Health Department works to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in McLean County through counseling, testing, community education, outreach and surveillance. The health department also offers testing, treatment and follow-up care for gonorrhea, syphilis, and Chlamydia: along with hepatitis prevention measures and pregnancy testing. Outside of the June 27th free HIV testing day, appointments are available Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, with walk-ins accepted on Tuesday afternoons and most private and public insurance is accepted. There is no residency requirement. For more information on HIV or STD services available at the McLean County Health Department, call (309) 888-5435 or visit www.mcleancountyil.gov/health.

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