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DCHHS commemorates World AIDS Day with free HIV testing

Dallas County Health and Human Services officials announced today that free HIV testing will be offered in observance of World AIDS Day.

World AIDS Day is December 1.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that more than one million people are living with HIV in the United States. According to the CDC, 1 in 5 doesn't know they're infected.

“We know that HIV continues to be an issue in our community, especially among the younger age groups,” DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson said. “DCHHS has to continue to identify those individuals who are unaware of their status in order to get them the care they need and prevent further spread of HIV.”

More than 14,000 people in Dallas County live with HIV, according to 2009 data. About 866 new cases of HIV/AIDS were diagnosed last year in Dallas County.

Free HIV testing will be offered from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Early Intervention clinic on the third floor of the DCHHS building, 2377 N. Stemmons Freeway, in Dallas. Free testing will also be offered from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. inside DCHHS' mobile medical clinic. The unit will be stationed tomorrow at Big T Bazaar, 4515 Village Fair Drive in Dallas.

Patients who are tested on World AIDS Day will be given same-day results.

Those interested in getting tested are encouraged to call 214-819-1980.

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