
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Health Department Offers Walk-In HIV Testing on World AIDS Day

(Grand Rapids, MI) – In observance of World AIDS Day tomorrow, December 1, the Kent County Health Department (KCHD) will offer two opportunities for the public to get tested for HIV free of charge and without an appointment. The Personal Health Services clinic at the Health Department’s main building, 700 Fuller Ave., N.E. will take walk-in clients from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Later that evening, KCHD will offer free testing at the celebration entitled “We’re All in this Together.” The event begins at 7 p.m. at East Congregational United Church of Christ, 1005 Giddings Ave. SE in Grand Rapids. Those wishing to get tested can register until 9 p.m.

HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, is a worldwide threat to people of all ages and ethnicities. Residents are encouraged to learn more about HIV/AIDS and to know their status by being tested.

“Getting tested is the key to preventing the spread of HIV and boosting the quality of life for those living with HIV,” said Cathy Raevsky, Administrative Health Officer for KCHD. “For those with an HIV negative status, getting tested provides peace of mind and the opportunity to evaluate their risk.”

World AIDS Day began in 1988 when health ministers from around the world designated a day to show solidarity for the fight against AIDS. Free HIV counseling and testing is offered Monday through Friday by appointment at the Health Department. For more information, call (616) 632-7171. Services are available for all persons 13 years of age or older and can be either confidential or anonymous. Tests can be administered through a conventional blood draw that produces results in 10 days or through a rapid finger-poke test, which yields results in 30 minutes. Partner counseling and referrals also are available.

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KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to the whole of Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and the Westside of Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD and our services, visit www.accesskent.com/health. Follow us at twitter.com/kchd and search for us on facebook.

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