
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 22, 2017

For additional information contact:

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**Health Department Offers Free Walk-in Testing Opportunities in
Recognition of National HIV Testing Day**

GRAND RAPIDS, MI. - More than one million people in the United States are living with HIV according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In recognition of National HIV Testing Day June 27, 2017, the Kent County Health Department (KCHD) will be offering free testing during the week of June 26 at all four of its clinics. The simple finger poke test can yield preliminary results in about 20 minutes. During that time our Personal Health Services certified counselors provide advice on protecting yourself and others from HIV.

On Monday testing will take place from 1pm – 4pm at the Sheldon Clinic at 121 Franklin SE, Grand Rapids.
On Tuesday people can be tested from 8am – 5pm at KCHD’s Fuller Clinic at 700 Fuller NE, Grand Rapids
On Wednesday testing will be at the North County Clinic at 4388 14 Mile Rd. NE, in Rockford from 1pm -4pm.
On Thursday the South Clinic at 4700 Kalamazoo Ave. SE, Kentwood will host testing from 1pm – 4pm.
On Friday June 30 testing moves back to the Fuller Clinic from 8am- 5pm.

“The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Kent County Health Department recommend that everyone know their HIV status,” says Adam London, Administrative Health Officer for the Kent County Health Department. “This knowledge is essential for getting helpful therapy and for protecting others from the virus.”

Routine testing for individuals at risk can lead to earlier diagnosis and treatment of HIV. Treatment of HIV reduces HIV-related illness and reduces the spread of the virus. The CDC estimates that there are 50,000 new HIV infections in the United States every year. One out of every eight people infected with HIV does not know their infection status according to the agency.

HIV, Human Immunodeficiency Virus, attacks the cells that make up the body’s immune system. HIV can make it difficult for an infected individual to fight off colds and other diseases. There are many medications available today that can strengthen the immune system. Left untreated HIV can develop into Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome - AIDS – which can be fatal.

People who are unable to visit one of the testing events, can make an appointment by calling 616-632-7171. More Information on HIV and AIDS can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/>.

KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 265 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and three satellite clinics located in Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.

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