



NEWS RELEASE

Department of Public Health

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Free Rapid HIV Testing

In observance of National HIV Testing Day, Public Health will be providing free rapid HIV testing with resources, educational information, and incentive items at two mobile locations on Monday, June 27. The mobile testing unit (MTU) will be at the corner of Rialto Avenue and E Street in San Bernardino from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The MTU will also be at Hamburger Mary's Restaurant at 3550 E. Porsche Way, in Ontario from 8 to 11p.m. The rapid test involves a simple oral swab which produces results within 20 to 40 minutes. In addition, Public Health Clinics offer confidential standard HIV testing.

“Early HIV diagnosis is critical so people who are infected can fully benefit from available life-saving treatments,” said Dr. Maxwell Ohikhuare, Health Officer. “Finding out whether you are infected with HIV is the first step to improving your health, and the health of your community.”

HIV is a chronic disease that is manageable with medication and medical care. As of 2014, San Bernardino County is home to 3,753 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. This number could be greater as 16 percent of infected people do not know their status. A vital part in reducing the rate of HIV cases, is not only by preventing new cases through promotion and awareness efforts but also in linking people living with HIV/AIDS to medical treatment.

Taking HIV medication can greatly reduce the chances of transmitting HIV to partners or an unborn child in addition to slowing the progression of HIV and helping protect the body's immune system. Getting tested is the only way to know your HIV status and begin treatment immediately if necessary.

The HIV Prevention Program provides free rapid HIV testing and counseling services every month at set locations and times throughout San Bernardino County. All people are encouraged to get tested every year, or every 3 to 6 months if they participate in high-risk behavior such as having unprotected sex or sharing needles.

For more information on the National HIV Testing Day events, rapid HIV testing and counseling services, or the monthly rapid testing schedule, please call the HIV Prevention Program at 1-(800) 255-6560.

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