

Mission:
To protect, promote & improve the health
of all people in Florida through integrated
state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

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MEDIA CONTACT: Marie Mott

desk 850-595-6272

PUBLIC CONTACT: 850-595-6345

HEALTH OFFICIALS ENCOURAGE HIV TESTING FOR EVERYONE

PENSACOLA, FL – Each year the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and U.S. Department of Health & Human Services recognize June 27 as National HIV Testing Day (NHTD). The purpose of NHTD is to encourage HIV testing within local communities.

- According to the Florida Department of Health HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis Section, there are over 1,100 individuals living with HIV or AIDS in Escambia County, Florida.
- Approximately 20% of Floridians living with HIV are not aware of their positive status¹.
- It is estimated that almost half of new HIV infections are spread by persons who are living with HIV and are unaware of their positive status.²

The theme of NHTD is “Take the Test, Take Control.” The CDC recommends that everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 be tested for HIV at least once, with those at increased risk testing more frequently. Late diagnosis is associated with poorer health outcomes and more rapid disease progression. Early diagnosis and treatment is critical to a longer, healthier life for those infected with HIV.

Make the time to take the test. Multiple free HIV test sites are available throughout Escambia County, Florida. To find a free test site near you, text your zip code to 477493.

For additional information on HIV testing, treatment, and services available, please contact the Department of Health’s Area 1 HIV/AIDS Program at 850-595-6345, visit the Northwest Florida AIDS Consortium website at www.noflacweb.org, or visit the Escambia County Health Department website at www.EscambiaHealth.com.

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¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. HIV surveillance: United States, 1981-2008. MMWR 2011; 60:689– 693.

² Hall, H.I., Holgrave, D.R., & Maulsby, D.R. (2012). HIV transmission rates from persons living with HIV who are aware and unaware of their infection. *AIDS*, 26(7), 893-896.