

June 22, 2020

NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY EVENT

Receive a Free In-Home Test Kit and Know Your Status



Contact:

Media Desk: 850-595-6500 x 6000

Pensacola, Fla. – In observance of National HIV Testing Day (NHTD), the Florida Department of Health in Escambia County (FDOH-Escambia) is participating in a community-based NHTD event. The event aims to raise awareness about the importance of HIV testing and knowing your HIV status. Testing is the first step in maintaining a healthy life and reducing the spread of HIV. The NHTD event is free and open to the public.

What: National HIV Testing Day

When: Friday, June 26, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. CDT.

Where: St. John Divine Baptist Church: 620 E. Jordan Street, Pensacola, FL 32503

Event attendees will learn about HIV prevention and receive a free OraQuick rapid HIV self-test kit, while supplies last. This easy-to-use test kit uses an oral fluid swab sample to rapidly test for the virus and can be done from the comfort of your home. The test is 99.9% accurate and FDA approved, and is often used in health clinics, doctors' offices, and hospitals.

NHTD is an annual observance to encourage people to get an HIV test. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 get tested for HIV at least once as part of their routine health care. People at higher risk should get tested more often.

According to the CDC, about 1.1 million people in the United States have HIV, and about 14 percent of those individuals do not know they are infected. In Escambia County, there were 2,420 persons living with HIV or AIDS at the end of 2018. FDOH-Escambia's focused outreach, testing, and education efforts aim to encourage everyone to get tested and know their HIV status.

For more information about HIV/AIDS resources, contact the FDOH-Escambia HIV/AIDS Program at 850-595-6500 x 1500 or visit www.EscambiaHealth.com.

###

About the Florida Department of Health

The Florida Department of Health, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on Twitter at [@HealthyEscambia](#) and on [Facebook](#). For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit www.FloridaHealth.gov.