

Feb. 3, 2022

UPCOMING EVENT IN OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY



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Pensacola, Fla. – In observance of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD), the Florida Department of Health in Escambia County (FDOH-Escambia), in partnership with Edwards Chapel AME Zion Church, is participating in a community-based NBHAAD event to increase awareness of HIV prevention and offer free HIV rapid testing to those ages 13 and up.

On Sunday, February 6, 2022, free HIV testing will be available from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Edwards Chapel AME Zion Church, 1220 East Scott Street in Pensacola. Take home test kits will also be available.

NBHAAD is an annual observance that encourages people to get an HIV test. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends 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, Blacks accounted for 42% of the 36,801 new HIV diagnoses in the United States in 2019, while constituting only 14% of the population. In 2020, Escambia County also saw this disproportionate impact where Blacks accounted for 60% of the new HIV diagnoses while making up only 22.8% of the population. 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 EscambiaHealth.com

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