

District Health Department No. 4

100 Woods Circle, Suite 200
Alpena, MI 49707
(989) 356-4507 or 1-800-221-0294
www.dhd4.org



For Media Contact Only:

Cathy Goike
cgoike@dhd4.org
(989) 358-7970

**For Immediate Release
November 29, 2017**

December 1 is World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day is held on December 1st each year and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV/AIDS, show their support for those living with HIV, and commemorate people who have died from AIDS. World AIDS Day an important reminder that HIV has not gone away—there is still a need to raise money, increase awareness, fight prejudice, and improve education.

Currently, more than 1.2 million Americans, including over 15,000 Michiganders, are living with HIV. On average, HIV is spread to 50,000 people in the U.S. every year; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 90% of these new cases could be prevented by testing and diagnosis. People with HIV who don't know that they are infected may spread it to others and will not get the important treatment that can keep them healthy for many years.

The CDC recommends that everyone between the ages of 13–64 get tested for HIV at least once. Women who are pregnant should be tested to protect their health and to prevent the spread of HIV to their baby. Those with certain risk factors should be tested at least once a year; these risk factors include:

- People with more than one sexual partner
- People who have contracted a sexually transmitted infection
- People who inject drugs
- Men who have sex with men

There is only one way to know if you are infected or not and that is to get tested. The rapid HIV test, with a simple finger poke, will provide HIV results in 30 minutes and can detect the HIV virus 14-15 days after infection.

DHD4 service area has been identified as high risk for the potential rapid spread of HIV infection or increase in hepatitis C due to increased prescription, opioid and IV drug abuse.

DHD4 offers free, confidential or anonymous rapid HIV testing on a walk-in basis if staff is available or call your local District Health Department No. 4 office for an appointment. Alpena 989-356-4507. Cheboygan 231-627-8850, Montmorency 989-785-4428, Presque Isle 989-734-4723.

Cheboygan County
Doris E. Reid Center
825 S. Huron St., Suite 1
Cheboygan, MI 49721
(231) 627-8850
Fax (231) 627-9466

Montmorency County
P.O. Box 183
12265 M-32 W.
Atlanta, MI 49709
(989) 785-4428
Fax (989)785-2217

Presque Isle County
151 E. Huron St.
P.O. Box 236
Rogers City, MI 49779
(989) 734-4723
Fax (989) 734-3866