

District Health Department No. 4

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**For Immediate Release
November 21, 2018**

World AIDS Day

This year marks the 30th anniversary of World AIDS Day. First observed in 1988, World AIDS day was initiated by health ministers from around the world who called for a spirit of social tolerance and a greater awareness of HIV/AIDS on an international scale. World AIDS Day is on Saturday, December 1, 2018.

The prevalence of HIV in Michigan has steadily increased, since persons with HIV are living longer. This is largely due to improved anti-retroviral medications. The number of newly diagnosed HIV positive patients has been stable for the past several years, and is a greater number than the reported deaths. The current reported prevalence in Michigan in 2017 of HIV is 16,218 and the prevalence of AIDS is 8,380.

World AIDS Day 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.

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 20 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.

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

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.

For more information visit HIV.gov or gettested.cdc.gov

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