



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FREE HIV Rapid Testing Offered on National HIV Testing Day - June 27

KALAMAZOO, MI— In observance of National HIV Testing Day on Wednesday, June 27, the Health & Community Services Department is offering FREE, confidential, rapid HIV testing on a walk-in basis from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 3299 Gull Road. Results will be available within moments of being tested.

#DoingItMyWay is the theme for this year's National HIV Testing Day and is designed to motivate all adults to get tested for HIV and know their status. As part of the Act Against AIDS initiative, #DoingItMyWay encourages HIV testing to be part of everyone's regular health routine to keep themselves and their community healthy.

About 1.1 million people in the United States are living with HIV. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) estimates of those, 1 in 7 people are HIV positive and are not aware of their positive status.

"There are still many myths in the community about how HIV is transmitted, which impacts people not getting tested when they should," said Jim Rutherford, Health Officer for Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department. "Once you know your status, and if you are HIV positive, you can make informed medical decisions regarding treatment with the counseling of your medical provider and have access to resources in the community. You have to know your status first, and that starts with getting tested."

HIV is transmitted by bodily fluids such as blood, semen, rectal fluids, vaginal fluids and breast milk. Actions that may put you at risk include:

- Unprotected vaginal or anal sex
- Having multiple sex partners
- Sex under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Having a sexually transmitted infection (STD)
- Sharing needles or syringes

To find a testing site near you, you can visit <https://gettested.cdc.gov>. For more information about HIV testing in Kalamazoo County or for additional testing sites and times, visit our website at www.kalcouny.com/hcs/hivaids or call Garrie Smith, Prevention Specialist, at 269-373-5159. Leave a message on the confidential voicemail, and your call will be returned.

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Kalamazoo County Government
Health & Community Services Department



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HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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