DOH-DUVAL RECOGNIZES NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY 2023

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Duval County, Fla. – June 27th commemorates National HIV Testing Day, an annual observance highlighting the importance of HIV testing. This year's theme "Take the Test and Take the Next Step," emphasizes that knowing your HIV status helps you choose options to stay healthy. The Florida Department of Health in Duval County (DOH-Duval) encourages everyone to take the opportunity to get tested and learn about available HIV treatment and prevention options.

Studies have shown that providing antiretroviral therapy (ART) as early as possible after diagnosis improves a patient's health, reduces transmission, and can eventually lead to undetectable HIV viral loads. People can reduce their risk for HIV by using appropriate prevention strategies, such as taking <u>pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)</u>, using protection, and getting tested regularly.

HIV prevention and treatment starts with knowing your status, which means getting tested. DOH-Duval offers routine HIV testing by appointment or walk-in as well as PrEP services by appointment. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call DOH-Duval at 904-253-1040.

In recognition of National HIV Testing Day, DOH-Duval's Comprehensive Care NOW Mobile Unit will offer free and confidential HIV testing on Tuesday, June 27th from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at:

JASMYN 923 Peninsular Place Jacksonville, FL 32204

Protect yourself. Get tested. Know your status. Learn what is next.

We have the power to both prevent and treat HIV. Visit **KnowYourHIVStatus.com** to learn about testing options in your area or to order a free at-home HIV testing kit mailed directly to the address of your choice. For more information, call 1-800-FLA-AIDS or 1-(800) 352-2437; en español, 1-800-545-SIDA; in Creole, 1-800-AIDS-101.

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The Department, nationally accredited by the <u>Public Health Accreditation Board</u>, 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 <u>@FLHealthDuval</u>. For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit <u>www.FloridaHealth.gov</u>.

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