



Contact: Lori Buttars
Public Information Officer
(801) 399-7114 (w)
(801) 652-5365 (m)

Press Release
June 6, 2016

National HIV Testing Day Serves as a Reminder for Treatment and Prevention

(Ogden, Utah) In commemoration of National HIV Testing Day, the Weber-Morgan Health Department is offering free testing on June 27 at its downtown clinic, 477 E. 23rd Street.

The free HIV testing is an effort to encourage at-risk individuals to receive testing in hopes of curtailing the spread of the disease. Nationally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that one out of every 5 individuals who have HIV are not aware they carry the virus.

“Anyone who has had unprotected sex, used IV drugs, shared injection equipment, been a victim of sexual assault, had an occupational exposure, blood transfusion or transplant, should seek testing,” said Lekelsi Talbot, public health nurse with the Weber-Morgan Health Department. “Many people who are infected lead healthy lives for years, but knowing your immune system has been compromised is the first step to treatment and preventing of complications.”

The free, rapid blood tests offer results in about 15 minutes. A positive test shows antibodies of the human immunodeficiency virus that causes AIDS. HIV infected individuals who do not get tested can unknowingly carry and transmit these antibodies to others until they develop serious symptoms such as cancer or other related-illnesses due to their weakened immune system.

“A negative test provides a timeline in the event a positive test does occur later, and we can begin treatment and prevention measures quickly to have greater assurance that the appropriate people are getting tested and treated,” Talbot said.

Testing will be done from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The tests normally cost \$15, but will be free on Monday, June 27, 2016. The results can be obtained in as little as 20 minutes. Appointments are highly encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome.

For more information, or to make an appointment, contact the clinic at 801-399-7250.

###