

**MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: May 25, 2016 End Date: June 28, 2016
Contact Person: Dianna LaBonte, Supervisor
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Re: National HIV Testing Day is June 27, 2016

In recognition of National HIV Testing Day on June 27, 2016, the Genesee County Health Department (GCHD) urges Genesee County residents to “Take the Test. Take Control” and learn their HIV status. HIV testing is done daily at GCHD’s Adult clinic (STD/HIV) located on the second floor of the McCree building at 630 S. Saginaw Street, Flint 48502. In addition to the daily HIV testing done at the Adult clinic, in honor of National HIV Testing Day, GCHD will also offer HIV testing to community members on June 27, 2016 at its Burton Health Center on a walk-in basis from 8am-11am and 1pm-4pm in a confidential setting.

HIV is the virus that causes AIDS. The only way to know if you carry the virus is by being tested, as many people have the virus but don’t have any symptoms. In fact, in the United States, 1 in 8 people living with HIV don’t know they have it. Even if you don’t feel sick, getting early treatment for HIV is important. Early treatment can help you live a longer, healthier life. Treatment can also make it less likely that you will pass HIV on to other people.

HIV is spread through some of the body’s fluids, like blood, semen, vaginal fluids, and breast milk. HIV is passed from one person to another by:

- Having sex (vaginal, anal, or oral) without a condom or dental dam with a person who has HIV.
- Sharing needles with someone who has HIV.
- Breastfeeding, pregnancy, or childbirth if the mother has HIV.
- Getting a transfusion of blood that’s infected with HIV (very rare in the United States).

“By learning their HIV status, members of our community are taking control of their health and their future”, states Dr. Gary Johnson, MD, MPH, Medical Director at the Genesee County Health Department. “It is an important step in making our entire community healthier”. Genesee County Health Department’s Burton Health Center is located at G3373 S. Saginaw Street, Burton 48529.

Your Health. Our Work. It is not just a slogan; it is a compassionate commitment of service!