

# National HIV Testing Day 2007

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Wednesday June 27, 2007 is National HIV Testing Day. This is an annual campaign that is produced by the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA-US). It's purpose is to encourage individuals that are at risk to receive voluntary HIV counseling and testing. NAPWA was founded in 1983 and is the oldest coalition of people living with AIDS in the world and the oldest U.S. national AIDS organization. They advocate on behalf of all people living with HIV and AIDS in order to end the pandemic and human suffering caused by HIV/AIDS.

It is estimated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that 180,000 to 280,000 people nationwide are HIV positive but they are unaware of their status. HIV counseling and testing enables those with HIV to take steps to protect their own health and the health of their partners as well as helping those who have a negative result to get the information they need to stay uninfected. Tremendous strides have been made in HIV prevention and treatment, but it is of no use to those who do not know their status. By getting tested, individuals are taking the first step toward taking control of their lives and slowing the spread of the disease.

Who is at Risk? EVERYONE is at risk. If you are sexually active, then you are at risk for contracting HIV. Anyone can get HIV. The most important thing to know is how you can get the virus. You can get HIV:

- By having unprotected sex,
- By sharing a needle and syringe to inject drugs or sharing drug equipment used to prepare drugs for injection with someone who has HIV.
- From blood to blood contact, or if you had a blood transfusion prior to 1985
- A mother who is HIV positive can pass it to her unborn child through shared blood supply and after it is born through breast milk.

You cannot get HIV:

- By working with or being around someone who has HIV
- From sweat, spit, tears, clothes, drinking fountains, phones, toilet seats or through everyday things like sharing a meal.
- From insect bites or stings.
- From donating blood.
- From hugging
- From a closed mouth kiss.

There are many fronts in the fight against HIV/AIDS, these include but are not limited to preventing the spread, providing care for those who need it, and searching for a cure. If you are at risk, getting tested is one of the ways you can help to halt the global epidemic.

This year the Southeastern District Health Department will be hosting it's own event for National HIV Testing Day. The theme for this year is "Take the Test, Take Control". We will have FREE Oral testing with OraQuick Advance which is a rapid test that can give results in twenty minutes. It is done by having the client run a plastic paddle around the top and bottom gums and then placing it in the solution and reading the result after 20 minutes. It is a very accurate test. We have placed billboards throughout the town with the information about the event. The testing will be done at the Southeastern District Health Department at 1901 Alvin Ricken Drive in Pocatello on June 27th from the hours of 9a.m.-11a.m. and 12p.m. and 4p.m. For more information please contact JoAnne Fletcher R.N. at (208)239-5230.