



June 14, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Service Announcement

Southeastern District Health Department To Observe National HIV Testing Day

Day Encourages People To Take The Test And Take Control

Pocatello – The Southeastern District Health Department (SDHD) will mark this year’s *National HIV Testing Day*, Tuesday, June 27th, by continuing to encourage residents of southeast Idaho to know their HIV status. SDHD will be having a **free** walk-in clinic and rapid testing (same day results) on June 27th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at SDHD Pocatello office located at 1901 Alvin Ricken Drive. If you have ever had unprotected sex or shared needles, then you should consider getting a confidential HIV test.

National HIV Testing Day is a national campaign held each June 27th and is coordinated by the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA-US). This annual campaign helps reach millions of Americans at risk for HIV with the message that “It’s better to know.” The importance of this day is underscored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) recent estimate that between 850,000 and 950,000 Americans are living with HIV and yet nearly 180,000 to 280,000 are unaware of their HIV infection. The decision to take the test is the first step in taking responsibility for your health and the health of others with whom you may be intimately involved.

For more information about HIV and *National HIV Testing Day*, or to make an appointment for an HIV confidential test, contact Joanne Fletcher at the Southeastern District Health Department at 233-5230. More information can also be found at <http://www.napwa.org/hivtestinfo/> or SDHD’s HIV webpage located at http://www2.state.id.us/phd6/Services_Provided/fchs/HIV/hiv_aids.htm

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For further information regarding this release, please contact Mary Howell at the Southeastern District Health Department at 208-239-5288.