



## CALHOUN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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### FOR RELEASE

#### CCPHD Now Offering HIV Rapid Testing

Beginning March 1, 2010, the Calhoun County Public Health Department is the first and only provider in Calhoun County offering free HIV Rapid Testing. The HIV Rapid Test is much simpler than the standard testing and provides clients test results in 15 minutes. The Rapid Test is taken through a finger poke much like a blood sugar test. No need to return several days later for results.

It is estimated that approximately 17,000 Michigan residents are infected with HIV. About one-quarter of these residents do not know they are infected. Pursuant to recommendations made by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) “supports and encourages voluntary HIV testing as part of routine care provided in healthcare settings.” The CDC also recommends anyone who has not been tested before, has had unprotected sex, or shared a needle since their last test, be tested for HIV.

HIV screening programs can ensure that individuals learn of their HIV infection early. Screening programs are important to protecting public safety since unaware individuals infected with HIV may transmit a majority of new HIV infections. HIV screening is a highly effective prevention strategy.

As the Health Department continues protecting the health of Calhoun County residents and works to prevent disease, we aim to increase citizen awareness of HIV prevalence within the county, and protect and educate infected individuals. All HIV screening provided at the Health Department in pursuant to public health code MCL 333.5133. All patients will be provided with “information sufficient to obtain informed consent for and to understand the meaning of results of an HIV test.”

STD and HIV testing is available at the Battle Creek Health Department site located at 190 E. Michigan Avenue, Ste A100, Battle Creek, (269) 969-6363. Testing is available on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8am – 11am and 1pm – 3:30 pm and Tuesday and Friday from 8am – 11am.

For more information, please contact JoDee Rolfe, CCPHD Clinic Coordinator at (269) 969-6493.

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