



CALHOUN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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FOR RELEASE

Take the Test, Take Control Update Your Status

Did you know that more than 1 million adults and adolescents in the United States are living with HIV? Did you know that approximately one-quarter (1/4) of them do not know they are HIV-infected? Could this be you? Get the HIV test to know for sure. Early diagnosis and treatment saves lives and is known to reduce the spread of HIV. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) encourages everyone to know their status.

Despite increases in the total number of people living with HIV in the US in recent years, the annual number of new HIV infections has remained relatively stable. However, new infections continue at far too high a level, with approximately 50,000 Americans becoming infected with HIV each year. In Michigan there are approximately 19,800 persons living with HIV.

In Calhoun County, there are 180 individuals estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS. The rate of HIV in youth ages 20-24 has increased in Calhoun County as it has across the nation.

The Calhoun County Public Health Department (CCPHD) is strongly encouraging all citizens to participate in the 2013 National HIV Testing Day. All you have to do is take a FREE HIV test at the:

- Holland Park, 100 N. Albion Street, Albion, MI (no appointment is necessary) on Thursday, June 27th between 11am and 2 pm. Light refreshments will be served and there will be a drawing for gift cards and a FREE skateboard and helmet. Skateboard & BMX bike demonstrations will take place at this event and youth will be able to try the skateboard ramps and rails using provided skateboards and bikes with a signed permission slip.
- Fountain Clinic, 111 N. Jefferson Street, Marshall MI, on Friday, June 28th, between 11am and 3pm. Light refreshments will be served. Please call (269) 969-6493 for an appointment.

CCPHD uses the Rapid Test at each of its testing sites. 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. OraSure® testing is available on a limited basis as well. This collection device tests for antibodies from oral fluid – eliminating a blood draw.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Human Services, National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA), Michigan Department of Community Health, Calhoun County Jail, Calhoun County Juvenile Home and CCPHD sponsor National HIV Testing Day. National HIV Testing Day encourages people at high risk of HIV infection to receive voluntary and free HIV counseling and testing.

The CDC now recommends HIV testing as a routine part of an individual's healthcare. Anyone who has not been tested before, has had unprotected sex, or shared a needle since their last test, should be tested for HIV.

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

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