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San Bernardino County Recognizes National HIV Testing Day

San Bernardino. The 19th annual National HIV Testing Day is Thursday, June 27, 2013. With an estimated 210,000 people living with HIV and are unaware of their infection in the United States- this year's message "Take the Test, Take Control" is a giant step in the right direction towards an AIDS-free generation. Although great strides have been made in the prevention of the spread of HIV, according to the 2010 AIDS Surveillance Report by the California Office of AIDS, there are up to 7,000 new cases of HIV in the State each year.

Much medical advancement has helped people living with HIV/AIDS lead longer, healthier lives, but prevention and awareness are still key elements in fighting this epidemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimate that every 9.5 minutes someone is infected by HIV, and as many as 21% do not know they are infected. These factors make HIV testing a crucial component of leading the fight against HIV.

One of the goals of President Obama's National HIV/AIDS Strategy is to reduce new HIV infection rates by 25% by the year 2015. This will take a combination of strategies: increasing HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention efforts in our communities, and increasing the number of people living with HIV who know their status.

In honor of the 19th annual National HIV Testing Day, the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health encourages all residents, especially those at high-risk for contracting HIV, to take the HIV antibody test. The Department of Public Health regularly provides conventional HIV antibody testing at any of the eight public health centers. Additionally, rapid HIV testing which yields results in twenty minutes, is offered via a mobile testing unit at various alternative testing sites throughout the County of San Bernardino.

For more information on National HIV Testing Day Events or about HIV/AIDS and testing, contact the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health, HIV/AIDS program at (800) 255-6560, or Clinic Operations at (800) 722-4777.

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