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Stanislaus County Public Health and Walgreens Partner to Offer Free HIV Testing on June 27th, National HIV Testing Day

Stanislaus County - In observance of National HIV Testing Day, Stanislaus County Public Health is proud to partner with Walgreens Pharmacy to offer free HIV testing on June 27, 2024. This community event will take place at the Walgreens located at 401 Paradise Rd, Modesto, CA 95351 Modesto, from 10 AM to 7 PM. The initiative aims to raise awareness about the importance of HIV testing and to encourage residents to know their status.

HIV remains a significant public health issue both locally and statewide. According to recent data from the California Department of Public Health 2022 data, there are over 924 individuals living with HIV in Stanislaus County. According to the latest CDC data, about 13% (153,500) of people with HIV in the U.S. don't know it and so need testing, highlighting the critical need for widespread testing and education.

Statewide, California reports approximately 142,772 people living with HIV. Despite advancements in treatment and prevention, new infections continue to occur, with over 4,000 new cases reported annually. In Stanislaus County, 57 individuals were newly diagnosed in 2022. Early detection through testing is crucial for managing the virus and preventing its spread.

“Knowing your HIV status is essential for your health and the health of our community,” said Dr. Erin Gustafson, STD Controller and Stanislaus County Assistant Public Health Officer. “By partnering with Walgreens, we are making testing more accessible and convenient. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this free opportunity.”

The free testing event will feature rapid HIV tests, with results available in as little as 20 minutes. No appointment is necessary, and all tests are confidential. In addition to testing, educational materials and resources will be available on-site for those seeking more information about HIV prevention, treatment, and support services. Walgreens is also making its pharmacy staff available to administer appropriate vaccines to individuals at risk for HIV.

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National HIV Testing Day, observed annually on June 27th, reminds people of the importance of regular HIV testing and early diagnosis. This year's theme, "Take the Test & Take Control," emphasizes the power of testing in managing one's health and taking proactive steps toward a healthier future.

Residents are encouraged to attend the event, bring friends and family, and help spread the word. For more information about the free HIV testing event, please contact Stanislaus County Public Health at (209) 558-7356 or visit our website at schsa.org

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