



LIVINGSTON COUNTY  
Health Department

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**KILL DATE: (December 2, 2017)**

### **World AIDS Day is December 1, 2017**

HOWELL, Michigan. - (November 28, 2017) This Friday is World AIDS Day. World AIDS Day is observed every year on December 1<sup>st</sup> as a way to raise awareness and bring attention to the global AIDS epidemic. This year, the theme is “Increasing Impact through Transparency, Accountability, and Partnerships.” World AIDS Day an important reminder that HIV has not gone away—there is still a need to raise money, increase awareness, fight prejudice, and improve education. To increase awareness, LCHD will have red ribbons for clients to take home on Friday.

Currently, more than 1.2 million Americans, including over 15,000 Michiganders, are living with HIV. On average, HIV is spread to 50,000 people in the U.S. every year; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 90% of these new cases could be prevented by testing and diagnosis. People with HIV who don't know that they are infected may spread it to others and will not get the important treatment that can keep them healthy for many years.

Treatment for HIV has come a long way, and in many cases treatment can make it so the virus is unable to be detected in your blood. When it cannot be detected, HIV also cannot be spread. This is one of the reasons why it is important to know your HIV status. Testing is available at many locations including LCHD.

**The CDC recommends that everyone between the ages of 13–64 get tested for HIV at least once.** Women who are pregnant should be tested to protect their health and to prevent the spread

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of HIV to their baby. Those with certain risk factors should be tested at least once a year; these risk factors include:

- People with more than one sexual partner
- People who have contracted a sexually transmitted disease (STD)
- People who inject drugs
- Men who have sex with men

**For HIV testing at LCHD:** Confidential or anonymous HIV testing is available by appointment and it is free. Call the Communicable Disease Nurse for an appointment at (517) 552-6882.

**CONTACT:**

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