



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

# WARREN COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

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## Media Advisory

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### National HIV Testing Day Tuesday, June 27, 2023

National HIV Testing Day (NHTD) was first observed on June 27, 1995. This is a day to encourage people to get tested for HIV, know their status, and get linked to care and treatment.

The theme for 2023, “Take the Test & Take the Next Step,” emphasizes that knowing your HIV status helps you choose options to stay healthy. The letters HIV stand for Human Immunodeficiency Virus. It is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome), which is the most advanced stage of HIV infection. About 1.2 million people in the US had HIV at the end of 2021. Nearly 40% of new HIV infections are spread by people who do not know they have the virus.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone 13 to 64 years old get tested for HIV at least once as part of routine health care and that people at higher risk for HIV get tested more often. Risk factors for HIV include having vaginal or anal sex with someone who is HIV positive or whose HIV status you don’t know; having sex with many partners; and injecting drugs and sharing needles, syringes, or other drug equipment with others. Pregnant women are also encouraged to get tested for HIV so that they can begin taking HIV medicines if the test is positive. Knowing your HIV status is the first step in staying healthy and stopping the spread of HIV.

HIV testing, including self-testing, is the pathway to engaging people in care to keep them healthy, regardless of their test result. People who receive a negative test result can take advantage of HIV prevention tools such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), condoms, and other sexual health services and testing for sexually transmitted infections. People who receive a positive test result can be referred for HIV treatment (antiretroviral therapy, or ART) to stay healthy.

The Warren County Health District offers free, confidential HIV testing. To schedule an appointment for testing call 513-695-1263. Oral quick result testing available. Test now and know your status.

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