



News from the Office of ERIE COUNTY EXECUTIVE MARK POLONCARZ

NEWS RELEASE

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JUNE 27th IS NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY

Health Commissioner Burstein Urges Testing

ERIE COUNTY, NY—Erie County Health Commissioner Dr. Gale Burstein highlighted that tomorrow, Wednesday, June 27th is National HIV testing day and encouraged any residents who “don’t know their status” to visit (or call at 716-858-7687) the Erie County Department of Health STD Clinic located at 608 William Street in Buffalo, NY for a free test.

As the former Medical Officer at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Divisions of STD Prevention; HIV/AIDS Prevention, Dr. Burstein understands how important it is for everyone to get tested.

Dr. Burstein said, “Nearly one in five people with HIV don’t know they are infected. And as such, they don’t get the medical care they need, and can pass the virus on to others without knowing it. The most important step in effective treatment is a diagnosis.”

Erie County Department of Health STD Clinic’s hours are: Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am to 11:30 am and from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm; Fridays from 10:00 am to 11:30 am and from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Walk-in only - No appointments are taken.

All STD testing is free and confidential. Anyone 12 years of age and older can utilize the STD clinic. Testing and treatment is provided for HIV, gonorrhea, syphilis, chlamydia, bacterial vaginosis, trichomoniasis, genital herpes, public lice, scabies and other STD's. The clinic also provides HIV counseling and testing, educational presentations to community groups, and educational material on sexually transmitted diseases.

For more information on the County’s free STD Clinic, please visit the ECHOD’s website at <http://www.erie.gov/health>.

Here are some other ways to get your HIV test:

- The Lighthouse Free Medical Clinic located at 1323 Jefferson Avenue in Buffalo is open most Wednesdays, year round, and provides free care to patients on a drop-in basis. For additional information, please call 716-222-0805.
- The New York State Department of Health has a too-free AIDS hotline. You can call 1-800-541-AIDS (2437) to schedule a free HIV test.

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