

June 26, 2019

## Miami-Dade County Health Department Recognizes HIV Testing Day



### Contact:

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**Miami, Fla.** — June 27, 2019, commemorates National HIV Testing Day (NHTD). First observed in 1995, NHTD is meant to encourage people to be aware of their HIV status so that they can take control of their health. This year's theme, "**Doing It My Way**," highlights how and why people make testing a part of their lives. The Miami-Dade County Health Department joins community partners across the country to emphasize the importance of getting tested, knowing your status, and getting linked to care and treatment.

"The first step to knowing your status is getting tested, said Yesenia Villalta, APRN, DNP, MSN, Administrator/Health Officer of the Miami-Dade County Health Department. "With early diagnosis, individuals can begin appropriate treatment and care resulting in better health outcomes."

In 2017, 116,944 Floridians were confirmed to be living with HIV. An estimated 18,000 more were living with HIV but unaware of it. "To see these numbers come down in our state, we need to recognize the role of stigma as a barrier to getting tested," said department HIV/AIDS Section Administrator Laura Reeves. "Normalizing HIV testing and making sure there's a testing option that works for everyone is one way to reduce stigma. This is important, because knowing your HIV status gives you the power to make informed decisions about your health. Our goal is to work with our partners to make sure every Floridian has that power."

### Get Tested.

Did you know that there's more than one type of HIV test? Most use either a blood sample or fluid swabbed from the inside of your cheek. There are different settings in which you can take an HIV test, too, including in the comfort and privacy of your own home. Visit [KnowYourHIVStatus.com](http://KnowYourHIVStatus.com) to learn more about testing options in your area or to order a free at-home HIV testing kit mailed directly to the address of your choice (while supplies last).

### Knowing your HIV status is just the beginning.

It's crucial that people living with HIV begin treatment as soon as possible. Immediate treatment with antiretroviral therapy (ART) typically leads to long, healthy lives for people living with HIV. It's also a method of HIV prevention. ART reduces the amount of HIV in the body, which makes it harder to transmit to others. People living with HIV who reach and maintain what's called "viral suppression" (fewer than 200 copies of HIV per milliliter of blood) have effectively no risk of sexually transmitting HIV to an HIV-negative partner.

There are also prevention tools for people who haven't been diagnosed with HIV. While HIV prevention is truly a group effort, it can look very different from person to person. A health care

provider can do a risk/needs assessment to determine appropriate next steps, which might include taking pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and using condoms to reduce the risk of acquiring HIV. Prevention may also take the form of regular retesting.

### **Observe NHTD with us!**

The Miami-Dade County Health Department will be hosting the following event:

**Date:** Thursday, June 27, 2019

**Event:** TESTMiami mobile

**Address:** Walgreens - 1695 NW 20th Street, Miami

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

For additional testing locations in Miami-Dade County please see the attached flyer.

### **Protect yourself. Get tested. Know your status. Learn what's next.**

For more information, please call 305-643-7420 or 1-800-FLA-AIDS. Visit [KnowYourHIVStatus.com](http://KnowYourHIVStatus.com) or TESTMiami.org

### **About the Florida Department of Health**

The department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and Twitter at [@HealthyFla](#). For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit [www.FloridaHealth.gov](http://www.FloridaHealth.gov).

# NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY!



## JUNE 27



# FREE HIV TESTING

Available at the following Walgreens locations

Address	Time	Provider
161 NE 54 <sup>th</sup> Street Miami, FL 33137	10AM to 7PM	Testing Provided by Borinquen
524 Jefferson Avenue Miami Beach, FL 33139	10AM to 7PM	Testing Provided by Care Resource
750 NW 119 <sup>th</sup> Street Miami, FL 33168	10AM to 7PM	Testing Provided by Care Resource
7910 NW 27 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Miami, FL 33147	10AM to 7PM	Testing Provided by Empower "U", Inc. Community Health Center
11920 NW 27 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Miami, FL 33167	10AM to 7PM	Testing Provided by Empower "U", Inc. Community Health Center
1695 NW 20 <sup>th</sup> Street Miami, FL 33142	10AM to 7PM	Testing Provided by the Florida Department of Health Test Miami Mobile Unit
18300 NW 37 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Miami Gardens, FL 33056	10AM to 4PM	Testing Provided by Jessie Trice Community Health Center
1845 Alton Road Miami Beach, FL 33139	10AM to 7PM	Testing Provided by Latinos Salud
1601 SW 107 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Miami, FL 33165	10AM to 7PM	Testing Provided by Latinos Salud
3103 Biscayne Boulevard Miami, FL 33137	10AM to 7PM	Testing Provided by the Village/Westcare
9020 Biscayne Boulevard Miami Shores, FL 33128	10AM to 7PM	Testing Provided by Project Access Group
1669 Collins Avenue (Collins & Lincoln) Miami Beach, FL 33139	10AM to 7PM	Testing Provided by Miami Beach Community Health Center
12295 N Biscayne Boulevard North Miami, FL 33161	10AM to 7PM	Testing Provided by Miami Beach Community Health Center
5701 NW 183 <sup>rd</sup> Street Hialeah, FL 33015	10AM to 7PM	Testing Provided by CAN Community Health
6200 NW 7 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Miami, FL 33150	10AM to 7PM	Testing Provided by CAN Community Health



For more information visit:

[www.testmiami.org](http://www.testmiami.org)

[www.greaterthan.org](http://www.greaterthan.org)

