

Cover Sheet

DATE: June 24, 2014

SUBJECT: June 27th – National HIV Testing Day

INSTRUCTIONS:

DISTRIBUTE to your local HAN contacts. This HAN is intended for general sharing of information. **Remove this cover sheet before redistributing and replace it with your own.**

For LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT reference only

DPHHS Subject Matter Resource for more information regarding this HAN, contact:

**DPHHS STD/HIV
Section
1-406-444-3565**

**DPHHS Health Alert Hotline:
1-800-701-5769**

**DPHHS HAN Website:
www.han.mt.gov**

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Please ensure that DPHHS is included on your HAN distribution list.

Categories of Health Alert Messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Information Service: passes along low level priority messages that do not fit other HAN categories and are for informational purposes only.

Please call DPHHS to update contact information at 444-0919 or 444-6906

Information Sheet

Date: June 23, 2014

Subject: June 27th – National HIV Testing Day

Background: This year marks the 19th annual National HIV Testing Day, a time to promote one of our best tools for HIV prevention. Too many people don't know they have HIV (human immunodeficiency virus). More than 1 million people are living with HIV in the United States, but 1 in 5 do not know they are infected.

Information: According to data compiled by the Montana Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, thirty-one percent of Montanans aged 18 - 64 have never been tested for HIV. An estimated 31% of Montana adults report an HIV-related risk (intravenous drug use, diagnosis with an STI, exchanging money or drugs for sex, or having sex without a condom) in the past year. And, while Montana is considered a low prevalence state, an estimated 600 people are living with HIV or AIDS, and approximately 20 new HIV infections are reported annually.

Recommendations Actions: In April 2013, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) released HIV testing recommendations stating:

- everyone aged 15 to 65 should be screened for HIV infection
- teens younger than age 15 and adults older than 65 also should be screened if at increased risk
- all pregnant women, including women in labor

CDC also recommends an HIV test once a year for people at increased risk:

- gay and bisexual men
- people who inject drugs
- people with multiple sex partners

CDC data suggests that sexually active gay and bisexual men might benefit from more frequent testing (e.g., every 3 to 6 months).

Health care providers can

- Offer patients HIV tests as a routine part of their health care. Test women for HIV each time they are pregnant.
- Connect people at high risk for HIV to services that help them lower their risk and prevent them from getting infected.
- Make sure people who have HIV receive treatment and the services they need to stay healthy and lower their risk of passing the virus to others.
- See our website at www.dphhs.mt.gov for links to download materials for health care providers from CDC's *Act Against AIDS* website.

Local health departments can

- Coordinate National HIV Testing Day awareness and testing events to help prevent the spread of HIV and build a local network that responds year-round to the epidemic.
- Create programs and adopt policies to get people at high risk tested early and often. Make sure that those who have a positive test get care quickly.
- Provide services or resources such as medical care, social services, and programs shown to change behavior and lower risk to people at risk for HIV and those living with HIV.
- Promote and use national referral systems for places to get tested, such as National HIV and STD Testing Resources.
- Use CDC's *Act Against AIDS* (en Español) materials to promote HIV testing in target populations available at our website below.

RESOURCES/REFERENCES: To obtain further information regarding HIV/AIDS and the transmission of HIV, please click on the following link:

<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov>