



THE AIDS INSTITUTE

National Policy Office - Washington, DC: 202-835-8373
Program and Administrative Office - Tampa, FL: 813-258-5929

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Media Contact: Michael Ruppal, 813.258.5929 MRuppal@TheAIDSInstitute.org

**THE AIDS INSTITUTE ENCOURAGES INDIVIDUALS TO
TAKE CONTROL AND GET TESTED
ON NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY**

Washington, DC – On June 27th, The AIDS Institute recognizes National HIV Testing Day and reminds individuals to get tested and know their HIV status. To greatly increase knowledge of HIV infection among those who are unaware of their infection is the aim of the 20th annual National HIV Testing Day, and the target of education, advocacy, and other initiatives by The AIDS Institute.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), it is estimated that about 1.1 million people are living with HIV in the United States and 1 in 6 people with HIV don't know they have it, making it even more important for individuals to get tested and know their status. CDC recommends that everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 get tested for HIV at least once as part of routine healthcare and that some people with risk factors get tested more often.

As part of this year's awareness day, CDC issued [Laboratory Testing for the Diagnosis of HIV Infection: Updated Recommendations](#). The recommendations include the adoption of a new HIV testing algorithm that enables the early detection of acute HIV infection. Acute HIV infection is the period of time immediately following infection.

Many infections are preventable when HIV is identified and treated quickly. The early treatment strategy developed by CDC benefits the near and long-term health and well-being of people recently infected with HIV. "Early treatment is an essential part of the prevention strategy, too," explained Michael Ruppal, Executive Director of The AIDS Institute. "It works to reduce viral load and the less virus in the body, the less chance that transmission will occur," he continued.

Several studies indicate that about 40% percent of HIV transmission to sexual partners might occur in the early stages of infection. Ruppal concluded, "Increased knowledge of HIV infection through testing is therefore important to better protect the individual, the sexual partner, and the community."

Thanks to the affordable care act if people have coverage through Medicaid, Medicare, or private insurance, in many instances the test will be paid for and the beneficiary will have no out of pocket costs.

The AIDS Institute has issued a [Coverage Guide for HIV Testing](#) to help health providers learn how each major payer reimburses for preventive services, including HIV testing.

For more information about National HIV Testing Day, please visit <http://hivtest.cdc.gov/>.

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The AIDS Institute is a national nonprofit organization that promotes action for social change through public policy research, advocacy, and education.

For more information and to become involved in AIDS advocacy work, please contact The AIDS Institute at: (202) 835-8373, or by email at: Info@theaidsinstitute.org or www.TheAIDSInstitute.org