

# **Delaware General Health District**

## ***Dedicated to your health***

# NEWS RELEASE

## **SPECIAL NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY CLINIC SET FOR MONDAY, JUNE 27**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For further information contact Jesse Carter, public information officer, at 740-203-2085.

**DELAWARE, Oh., June 16, 2011** – The Delaware General Health District will provide HIV tests at a special day-long clinic on National HIV Testing Day on Monday, June 27.

The free, anonymous HIV tests will be available at the Health District Clinic, 3 W. Winter St., Delaware, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, June 27. The tests are quick and easy, using an oral swab and no needles, and results are available in about 20 minutes. The theme of the national observance is “Take the Test, Take Control.”

National HIV Testing Day follows the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a scientific report on pneumonia cases in five previously healthy young men in Los Angeles, two of whom had died. That report is now recognized as the first scientific publication on Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Nearly 600,000 Americans have died of AIDS since then.

HIV remains an epidemic, affecting an estimated 1,178,350 Americans in 2008 according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. An estimated 56,000 people are newly infected with HIV in the United States each year.

The importance of National HIV Testing Day becomes clear when one recognizes that an estimated one-fifth of all Americans infected with HIV do not know they are infected. Not knowing one’s HIV status endangers one’s health and the health of one’s sexual partners. By getting tested for the virus and learning one’s HIV status soon after infection, treatment can begin early, substantially delaying the development of HIV-related illnesses and prolonging life.

The special Delaware General Health District HIV clinic is a local component of a national HIV/AIDS strategy to make new HIV infections rare, and to ensure high quality life-extending care to persons with the disease.

The Delaware General Health District's National HIV Testing Day clinic is supported by the Delaware County AIDS Task Force and the Ohio Department of Health.

Free, anonymous HIV tests are offered at the Delaware General Health District Clinic every Thursday morning from 7:30 to 9 a.m., the third Tuesday of each month from 2 to 4 p.m., and the last Tuesday of each month from 2 to 6 p.m. For additional information, phone the clinic at 740-203-2040.