



For Immediate Release: June 10, 2016

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Long Island Association for AIDS Care (LIAAC) recognizes National HIV Testing Day.

In honor of National HIV Testing Day on June 27, 2016, The Long Island Association for AIDS Care encourages you to get tested for HIV. HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) is the virus that causes AIDS. The theme of the 2016 National HIV Testing Day is “*Doing It,*” a new national HIV testing and prevention campaign designed to motivate all adults to get tested for HIV and know their status.

The only way to know if you have HIV is to get tested. Many people with HIV don’t have any symptoms. In the United States, 1 in 8 people living with HIV don’t know they have it. According to the New York State HIV/AIDS Surveillance Annual Report: For Cases Diagnosed Through December 2013, Nassau County had 1,239 people living with HIV and Suffolk County had 1,265 people living with HIV.

Even if you don’t feel sick, getting early treatment for HIV is important. Early treatment can help you live a longer, healthier life. Treatment can also make it less likely that you will pass HIV on to other people.

Am I at risk for HIV?

HIV is spread through some of the body’s fluids, like blood, semen (cum), vaginal fluids, and breast milk. HIV is passed from one person to another by:

- Having sex (vaginal, anal, or oral) without a condom or dental dam with a person who has HIV
- Sharing needles with someone who has HIV
- Breastfeeding, pregnancy, or childbirth if the mother has HIV
- Getting a transfusion of blood that’s infected with HIV (very rare in the United States)

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, the health care reform law passed in 2010, insurance plans must cover HIV testing. Talk to your insurance company to learn more.

In recognition of National HIV Testing Day, the Long Island Association for AIDS Care (LIAAC) will be conducting free testing and outreach events at Walgreens Pharmacy in Freeport (89 Henry St., Freeport, NY 11520) and at Walgreens Pharmacy in Uniondale (603 Uniondale Ave, Uniondale, NY 11553) on June 23, 2016 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., June 24, 2016 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., and June 25, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information on how the Long Island Association for AIDS Care is celebrating National HIV Testing Day, visit our Facebook events page at <https://www.facebook.com/liaac.inc/events> or call our hotline at 1-877-865-4222

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