



**For Immediate Release: May 11, 2015**

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**The Long Island Association for AIDS Care celebrates HIV Vaccine Awareness Day.**

May 18, 2015 is HIV Vaccine Awareness Day, an annual observance to recognize and thank the thousands of volunteers, community members, health professionals, and scientists who are working together to find a safe and effective HIV vaccine. It is also a day to educate our communities about the importance of preventive HIV vaccine research.

HIV is a very tricky virus, which is why a great deal of time and resources are needed to develop the vaccine:

- HIV can “hide” from the antibodies that protect the body.
- There are many different types of HIV, and the virus changes rapidly, even in a single infected person.
- Vaccines don't always work in humans the same way they work in animals. Human efficacy trials are needed, and they are costly and take a lot of time.

The need for an HIV vaccine remains urgent as more than 33 million people worldwide and 2,412 people on Long Island are living with HIV. Once infected, most people will eventually need to stay on treatment for the rest of their lives. Treatment only slows disease and doesn't cure HIV, which is why prevention with an effective vaccine is critical in ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

In recognition of HIV Vaccine Awareness Day, the Long Island Association for AIDS Care will provide testing and education services across Long Island. Check LIAAC's official Facebook events page for more details. For more information on HIV Vaccine Awareness Day and for a comprehensive list of testing locations, visit our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/LIAAC.inc>, our website at [www.liaac.org](http://www.liaac.org) or call our toll free hotline at 1-877-TO-LIAAC.

**SINCE 1986**  
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