



**For Immediate Release: June 19, 2015**

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**The Long Island Association for AIDS Care celebrates National HIV Testing Day.**

June 27, 2015 is National HIV Testing Day, the annual National observance that was created to encourage every American to get tested for HIV and become aware of their HIV status. Although science is hard at work, there is still no cure for HIV, making testing for HIV the best defense against an epidemic that affects every corner of society. Individuals who test negative need to remain vigilant and take care to remain free of HIV, while those who test positive, get into immediate treatment and adopt behaviors which prevent the further spread of the disease. Powerful new prevention tools such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) can help achieve these goals. Recently the National Institutes of Health Published the results of a new study, which concluded that starting antiretroviral treatment for HIV positive individuals as soon as they are diagnosed, can significantly reduce the development of AIDS and other serious illness. If ever there was a time to start testing, it's now.

According to the Center for Disease Control and estimated 1.2 million people in the United States are living with HIV, and nearly 1 in 7 of those individuals are unaware that they are infected. The rates of infection in recent years have remained stable, yet the risk of further growth of infections exist unless prevention, care and treatment efforts continue for those most at risk. In the United States the group most severely affected by HIV is men who have sex with men (MSM), where the rate of infection goes against the norm and has increased by 12 percent. Within the MSM population, white men continue to represent the largest number of new HIV infections (11,200), with Black men (10,600) and Hispanic Men (6,700) following closely behind. Regular testing could help identify at risk individuals and get them into care sooner.

“Take the Test. Take Control.”, LIAAC embraces this annual message. In recognition of National HIV Testing 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 National HIV Testing 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.

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