

District 2 Public Health

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Banks, Dawson, Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union and White Counties

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY IS JUNE 27

GAINESVILLE – Each year public health observes National HIV Testing Day, to emphasize and encourage HIV testing. The theme for 2022 is "HIV Testing is Self-care." The goal of public health is to increase your knowledge of your HIV status so you can live a long and healthy life. Testing is the first step in care and prevention.

All District 2 Public Health departments will participate in National HIV Testing Day. HIV testing on June 27 will be completely FREE, easy, fast and confidential. Anyone ages 13 to 64 years old should get tested at least once in their life.

According to the CDC, the number of new HIV diagnoses was highest among people aged 25 to 34 years old.

Knowledge of status is one of the six ways to <u>Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S</u> (EHE). Once a person is diagnosed, they can take steps to manage their viral load and become undetectable with medication, effectively reducing their chance of spreading HIV to their sex partner. By the year 2030, the EHE initiative aims to reduce new HIV infections in the U.S. by 90 percent.

Taking the test is taking care of you. District 2 Public Health encourages you to talk to your partners and friends about getting tested for HIV. The only way to know for sure whether you have HIV is to get tested. To find a health department in a District 2 county visit phdistrict2.org.

For more information about HIV go to cdc.gov/hiv.

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