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
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

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DATE: November 22, 2024

Free HIV Testing at District 2 Health Departments on Dec 2nd
In Recognition of World AIDS Day

DISTRICT 2 PUBLIC HEALTH – All 13 Health Departments of District 2 are offering free, rapid HIV testing on Monday, December 2nd from 8 AM- 12:30 PM and 1 PM- 5 PM. We invite you to join us at one of the health department locations listed below. No appointment is needed, and walk-ins are welcome.

Banks County:
667 Thompson Street
Homer, GA 30547
706-677-2296

Dawson County:
54 Hwy 53 East
Dawsonville, GA 30534
706-265-2611

Forsyth County:
428 Canton Hwy
Cumming, GA 30040
770-781-6900

Franklin County:
6955 Hwy 145 South
Carnesville, GA 30521
706-384-5575

Habersham County:
185 Scoggins Drive
Demorest, GA 30535
706-778-7156

Hall County:
1290 Athens Street
Gainesville, GA 30507
770-531-5600

Hart County:
64 Reynolds Street
Hartwell, GA 30643
706-376-5117

Lumpkin County:
60 Mechanicsville Road
Dahlonega, GA 30533
706-867-2727

Rabun County:
184 South Main Street
Clayton, GA 30525
706-212-0289

Stephens County:
64 Boulevard, Suite 102
Toccoa, GA 30577
706-282-4507

Towns County:
1104 Jack Dayton Circle
Young Harris, GA 30582
706-896-2265

Union County:
67 Chase Drive
Blairsville, GA 30512
706-745-6292

White County:
1331 Helen Highway
Cleveland, GA 30528
706-865-2191

About World AIDS Day

The theme of this year's international initiative for World AIDS Day is "Take the rights path: My health, my right!" As the World Health Organization emphasizes, "The world can end AIDS – if everyone's rights are protected." By increasing awareness and addressing inequalities that prevent access to essential, health services, including HIV prevention, treatment, and care, we can all take action to protect our health. To support this mission, HIV testing will be free in all District 2 counties!

Why Get Tested?

Because HIV usually does not have immediate concerning symptoms, most people never realize they have been infected. In fact, 1 in 8 people with HIV do not know they have it. "The only way to know your HIV status is to get tested", the CDC states.

The CDC recommends, "everyone between ages 13 and 64 should get tested for HIV at least once". Individuals with specific risk factors may need more frequent testing. By knowing your status, you can keep yourself and your partner(s) healthy. If your test result is positive, there is effective treatment available that can help you live a long, meaningful life while also protecting others. We can connect you to any needed care the same day as well. If your test result is negative, you can engage in preventative steps to maintain your health.

Additional Opportunity for HIV Testing

District 2 Public Health is partnering with Ninth District Opportunity and with CORE to provide free, rapid HIV testing on Friday, December 6th from 11AM- 2PM. This is another opportunity to get tested. Swag bags and gift cards will be given while supplies last, and CORE will be offering vaccines. Join us at the intersection of Dorsey Street and Pearl Nix for rapid HIV testing.

To learn more about HIV testing and prevention services available, please visit the District 2 Public Health website. https://phdistrict2.org/std-hiv-testing/

Join us for HIV testing on December 2nd or December 6th. Protect your health. Every test is a step towards a safer community.

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