



Clinton County Health Department

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

“Working Together for a Healthier Community”

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**Clinton County Health Department
Press Release
National HIV Testing Day
June 15, 2009**

On June 27th every year since 1995, local organizations across the nation have engaged with their communities to promote early diagnosis and HIV-testing. In Clinton County, this work is primarily done by the agencies that make up Clinton County Partners for Awareness and Service (Partners). These are: AIDS Council of NE NY (ACNENY), Clinton County Health Department (CCHD) and Northern Adirondack Planned Parenthood (NAPP). In addition to HIV testing, ACNENY and NAPP both provide on-site testing for Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI). NAPP and CCHD also provide immunizations for Hepatitis A and B and Human Papilloma Virus (HPV).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that, of the one million people living with HIV/AIDS in the United States, 250,000 are unaware of their infection. This is very unfortunate since, with testing and early diagnosis, these individuals could be offered appropriate treatment and care and increase the likelihood of taking precautions that will prevent further spread of the virus.

The following are behaviors that increase your chances of getting HIV. If you answer yes to any of them, you should definitely get an HIV test. If you continue with any of these behaviors, you should be tested every year.

- Have you ever shared drug infection equipment or ‘works’, such as needles, syringes, or injected drugs that had been shared with others?
- Have you had unprotected vaginal, anal or oral sex with multiple partners, anonymous partners or men who have sex with men?
- Have you exchanged sex for drugs or money?
- Have you been diagnosed with or treated for hepatitis, tuberculosis (TB), or a sexually transmitted infection (STD)?
- Have you had unprotected sex with someone who could answer yes to any of the above questions?

Current recommendations from the CDC state that HIV testing should be a routine part of the regular physical assessments done by primary care providers. However, all medical doctors (MDs) can order an HIV test.

If you are unable to access HIV testing through your regular medical provider, you may contact any of these agencies for a routine, confidential HIV test. (Anonymous testing is only provided at CCHD.) Condoms and advice about how to avoid transmission of these infections are also provided.

For more information or to make an appointment:

AIDS Council of NENY	563-2437
Clinton County Health Department	565-4848
Northern Adirondack Planned Parenthood	561-4430

Endorsed by: _____
Paula Calkins Lacombe, Director of Public Health

