

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Stigma Remains a Barrier to HIV Testing and Treatment**  
June 27<sup>th</sup> is National HIV Testing Awareness Day

**EAU CLAIRE, Wis.-June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017**– Many people with HIV are not getting the medical care they need to stay healthy and to avoid passing HIV to others. When people living with HIV are faced with negative feelings or attitudes from others about their HIV status, they may be less likely to get medical care. When people in need of HIV prevention services face these negative attitudes, they may choose to not get tested. Testing is critical as one in seven people who have HIV don't know it.

An estimated 1.2 million people in the U.S. have HIV. That number grows by almost 50,000 every year. In 2015, 6,868 Wisconsin residents reported having HIV or AIDS. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 get tested for HIV at least once as part of routine health care. People with certain risk factors should get tested more often.

“It is our role-- as an individual, as a community, and a health care provider-- to create a safe space that helps people feel comfortable talking about and getting tested for HIV,” says Janel Hebert, Public Health Nurse.



The Health Department, in partnership with the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) is hosting an HIV testing event on **Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, starting at 8:30pm at Scooters, 411 Galloway St, Eau Claire, WI 54703.** *Testing at no cost to you will be offered to people that have never been tested, people with a history of injection drug use, men who have sex with men, and anyone who has had unprotected sex with multiple partners.*

We also offer HIV testing at our [Family Planning Clinic](#). To learn more about all services we offer, visit [www.ehealthdepartment.org](http://www.ehealthdepartment.org) or call 715-839-6988. All services are confidential.

To learn more about National HIV Testing Day, visit <https://npin.cdc.gov/nhtd/>.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/actagainstaids/campaigns/doingit/getmaterials/videos.html>

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