

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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In December, help end HIV-related stigma

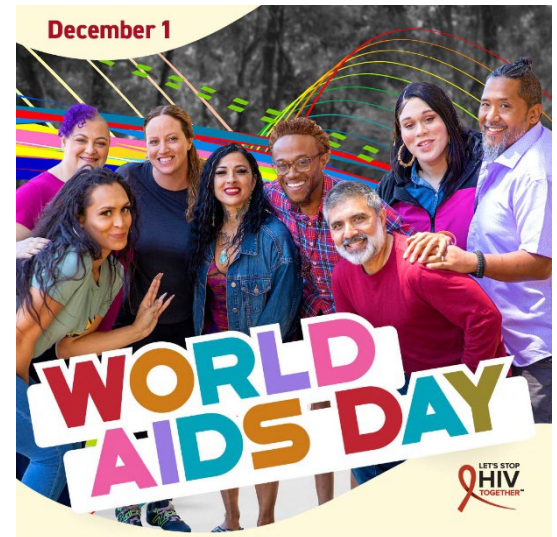
Eau Claire – December 6, 2024 – World AIDS Day takes place on December 1 each year. Now is the time to get tested for HIV, learn about how you can prevent an HIV infection, show support to people living with HIV, and remember those who have died of AIDS-related illness. (If left untreated, HIV can lead to the disease called AIDS.)

Not everyone living with HIV knows they have it. The most recent data suggests about 1,063 people in Wisconsin are not aware that they have HIV.

Testing is the only way to know if you have HIV. The CDC recommends that everyone between age 13 and 64 should be tested for HIV at least once. It's important to talk to your health care provider about your own chances of getting HIV and if you should be testing more often.

There are many things you can do to help prevent the spread of HIV:

- Use condoms the right way every time you have sex
- Never share needles/syringes or other drug injection equipment
- Get tested and treated for HIV and other STIs, or
- Talk to your doctor about taking PrEP, a highly effective medicine prescribed to reduce the chance of getting HIV



We encourage you to talk with your doctor about how you can decrease your chances of getting HIV.

The [Family Planning Clinic](#) at the Eau Claire City-County Health Department offers rapid HIV testing, as well as low-cost or no-cost HIV prevention and PrEP services. Call 715-839-6988 to make an appointment today.

It's time to end HIV and HIV-related stigma! Encourage your family, friends, and colleagues to learn more about HIV and to get tested.

For more information about HIV, visit <https://www.aids.gov/>.