

June 23, 2023

## DOH-BAY RECOGNIZES NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY 2023

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**Bay County, Fla.** – June 27<sup>th</sup> commemorates National HIV Testing Day, an annual observance highlighting the importance of HIV testing. This year's theme is "Take the Test and Take the Next Step," which emphasizes that knowing your HIV status helps you choose options to stay healthy. The Florida Department of Health in Bay County (DOH-Bay) encourages everyone to take the opportunity to get tested and learn about available HIV treatment and prevention options.

Studies have shown that providing antiretroviral therapy (ART) as early as possible after diagnosis improves a patient's health, reduces transmission, and can eventually lead to undetectable HIV viral loads. People can reduce their risk for HIV by using appropriate prevention strategies, such as taking [pre-exposure prophylaxis \(PrEP\)](#), using protection, and getting tested regularly.

HIV prevention and treatment starts with knowing your status, which means getting tested. DOH-Bay offers routine HIV testing by appointment or walk-in as well as PrEP services by appointment. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call DOH-Bay at (850) 872-4455.

In recognition of National HIV Testing Day, DOH-Bay will offer free and confidential HIV testing on the following days and times:

**June 26:**

Piggly Wiggly Supermarket  
911 N Waukesha St.  
Bonifay, FL 32425  
Hours: 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.

**June 27:**

The Bay County Public Library  
840 W 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Panama City, FL 32401  
Hours: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Florida Department of Health in Bay County  
597 W 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Panama City, FL 32401  
Hours: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**June 28:**

Twin Palms Plaza  
210 Monument Ave.  
Port St. Joe, FL 32456  
Hours: 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

**June 29:**

Grocery Outlet  
4230 Lafayette St.  
Marianna, FL 32446  
Hours: 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.

**June 30**

Piggly Wiggly  
1264 Church Ave.  
Chipley, FL 32428  
Hours: 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.

**Protect yourself. Get tested. Know your status. Learn what is next.**

We have the power to both prevent and treat HIV. Visit [KnowYourHIVStatus.com](https://www.knowyourhivstatus.com) to learn about testing options in your area or to order a free at-home HIV testing kit mailed directly to the address of your choice. For more information, call 1-800-FLA-AIDS or 1-(800) 352-2437; en español, 1-800-545-SIDA; in Creole, 1-800-AIDS-101.

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**About the Florida Department of Health**

The Department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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