

10/14/2021

**THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN BAY COUNTIES RECOGNIZES
NATIONAL LATINX AIDS AWARENESS DAY 2021**



Contact:

William Barrs
850-872-4455

Panama City, FL— In recognition of National Latinx AIDS Awareness Day, the Florida Department of Health in Bay County is partnering with local organizations to offer community awareness and HIV rapid testing.

Date: October 15, 2021

Event: Bay Pride Poker Run – LGBTQ Center of Bay County

Address: Panama City Hot Glass – 100 Harrison Avenue, Panama City, FL 32401

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Date: October 17, 2021

Event: The 50's A Sock Hop To Remember – Drag Me to Brunch Bay County

Address: House of Henry – 461 Harrison Ave, Panama City FL 32401

Time: 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

National Latinx AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD) is observed each year on October 15th. NLAAD acknowledges the impact of HIV on Hispanic and Latinx communities. NLAAD was founded in 2003 by the Latino Commission on AIDS and Hispanic Federation, and the 2021 campaign theme is **“It’s Time to Act. It’s Time to End HIV.”** The campaign focuses on the 40th anniversary of the HIV epidemic and the importance of testing, treatment, viral suppression, and protection.

According to the CDC, HIV diagnoses among Hispanic/Latina women has fallen in the past five years. However, in latest reports, new cases continue to rise among Hispanic/Latino gay and bisexual men. In 2018, adult and adolescent Hispanics/Latinos made up 27% of the 37,968 new HIV diagnoses in the United States (US) and dependent areas. A broad range of factors such as: concerns of immigration status, discrimination, homophobia, HIV stigma and language challenges have contributed to lower participation in HIV prevention and treatment services.

“We are committed to addressing the HIV epidemic by promoting prevention strategies and comprehensive medical services for those living with HIV. We continue utilizing strong collaborative efforts to reach and help those populations most affected by HIV.” Said Sandon S. Speedling, MHS, CPM, CPH, Administrator and Health Officer, Florida Department of Health in Bay County.

We have the power to both prevent and treat HIV. For more information, call 850-872-4455 or 1-800-FLA-AIDS or visit or [KnowYourHIVStatus.com](https://www.floridahealth.gov/communicable-diseases/hiv-aids/knownyourhivstatus.com).

About the Florida Department of Health

The Florida Department of Health, 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.

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and Twitter at [@HealthyFla](#). For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit [FloridaHealth.gov](#).