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**NEWS
RELEASE**

06 / 06 / 2023



City of El Paso Recognizes National HIV Testing Day, Offers Free HIV Tests Officials Aim to Bring Awareness, End Stigma

El Paso, Texas— As part of the National HIV Testing Day the City of El Paso Department of Public Health (DPH) is encouraging residents to know their HIV status by getting a free HIV test.

National HIV Testing Day is recognized on Tuesday, June 27. This year's theme, **'Take the Test & Take the Next Step,'** emphasizes that knowing your HIV status helps you choose options to stay healthy.

DPH is offering free and confidential HIV Testing on Tuesday, June 27 from 8 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4:30 p.m. at 220 S. Stanton and 5115 El Paso Drive Suite B. *Wal-Mart or Target Gift Cards will be given on a first-come, first-serve basis.*

"Knowing your HIV status is one of the most powerful tools available to each individual for prevention and prompt access to available treatment options," said City-County Local Health Authority Dr. Hector Ocaranza. "Having access to HIV testing, prophylaxis such as PrEP, or appropriate treatment improves everyone's quality of life. DPH serves our community with a status-neutral approach, where everybody will be treated the same regardless of HIV status."

Testing is especially important to reduce HIV transmission, as 2,455 El Paso County residents live with HIV, 109 of whom were newly diagnosed with HIV in 2021. Based on 2021 data from the Texas Department of State Health Services, 102,800 individuals were living with HIV in Texas and 4,377 were newly diagnosed. Nationwide, according to the CDC, an estimated 30,365 adults and adolescents were diagnosed with HIV in the United States at the end of 2020, the most recent year for which this information is available.

To schedule an appointment or for more information on the HIV Prevention program, call (915) 212-6665 or visit [EPHealth.com](https://www.ephealth.com) under the [HIV Prevention Tab](#).

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Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication**
Among All Members of the Community

Media contact: Soraya Ayub Palacios
Strategic Communications Office
(915) 212-1040 or (915) 781-4386