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June 20, 2018

NEWS RELEASE

Department of Public Health Extends Hours in Celebration of National HIV Testing Day

EL PASO, Texas – The first HIV test was approved in 1985 and for the past 33 years, testing has evolved, improving accuracy and timeliness. What once meant weeks of waiting is now a process that can take only a few minutes, thereby greatly improving our ability to get people living with HIV the medical care needed to live long, healthy lives.

In celebration of these achievements, and in order to reduce the spread of the disease, the City of El Paso will be celebrating National HIV Testing Day by offering **free, confidential and rapid HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis C testing** with extended hours. The **HIV Prevention Clinic, at 701 Montana**, will be open for testing on **June 27th** from **8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** and from **1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

“Modern HIV tests take only a few minutes to give someone a positive or negative result and are available to anyone regardless of income or insurance,” said HIV Prevention Program Manager Irene Ovalle.

National HIV Testing Day on June 27 began in 1995 and every year has focused on increasing awareness of HIV testing and encouraging every individual to get tested. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention currently estimates that 1 in 8 people living with HIV do not know they have the virus; this can negatively affect their health in the future. For this reason it is recommended that all people at risk for HIV, test at least once a year as part of a routine health check-up. Not every physician performs an HIV test as part of an annual check-up. Patients are encouraged to request the test from their physician.

For more information on the programs and services provided by the Department of Public Health, call 2-1-1 or visit www.EPHealth.com or www.EPSalud.com.

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