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*"Partnering to promote, protect and preserve health in our community."*

## **NEWS**

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### **Every Day is World AIDS Day at CDHD**

December 1, 2012 is World AIDS Day, a time to pay tribute to those living with HIV/AIDS and commemorate those who have died. While many organizations involved in the prevention of HIV/AIDS will offer special testing clinics, the Central District Health Department (CDHD) considers everyday World AIDS Day.

"Our services are offered on a sliding fee scale based on income," says Lorraine Fortunati, Program Manager for Preventive Health Services at CDHD. "As a result, the majority of clients we see pay little or nothing to be tested for HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. We recognize World AIDS Day, but also want to focus our efforts on preventing the spread of the disease every day of the year."

CDHD will not hold any special clinics on Saturday December 1<sup>st</sup>.

A new report issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates that new infections of HIV disproportionately affect the young, especially gay and bisexual men. Of the roughly 50,000 new HIV infections every year, 26-percent are among young people 13 to 24 years of age, and nearly three-quarters (72%) of those infections were among gay and bisexual men.

HIV/AIDS represents only one of the sexually transmitted diseases CDHD and other health care providers in the state are concerned about. Syphilis is on the rise, especially among gay and bisexual men. CDHD has launched a new website and outreach campaign to try and stem the spread of the disease, especially since having syphilis increases one's risk of acquiring or transmitting HIV. [www.check4it.org](http://www.check4it.org) specifically targets the syphilis outbreak with the cold, hard facts about the disease and offers information on where people can get tested.

Testing for all sexually transmitted diseases is available at CDHD through the Reproductive Health clinic. The clinic is open Monday through Friday and many same day appointments are available. Call 327-7400 for more information and to schedule an appointment.

CDHD also partners with a.i.p.h.a (Allies Linked for the Prevention of HIV and AIDS) to provide testing. a.i.p.h.a. will has a full schedule of events planned for World AIDS Day starting with free testing from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at their facility, 1009 W Bannock Street, Boise. For more information call 424-7799. a.i.p.h.a. also has a list of other facilities that test for HIV/AIDS on its website: <http://www.alphaidaho.org/#/testing-in-boise/4542054693>

Boise State University University's Health Services offers free HIV/AIDS testing for students every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. For more information call 426-1459.

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