

PRESS RELEASE

November 2017

**Standing Together in the Fight against HIV/AIDS
World AIDS Day 2017**

(Newark, NJ) – December 1st of every year marks World AIDS Day, a day of remembrance and celebration. Millions of people around the world will stand together in solidarity for many reasons: to provide encouragement to those living with HIV, to acknowledge those working tirelessly to care for HIV infected patients, to promote HIV testing, diagnosis, and treatment, and to remember those who have died as a result of the disease.

Let this day serve as a reminder that HIV and AIDS remain a major global health priority. Although everyone is at risk for HIV infection regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, or sexual preference, there are some groups (populations) more affected by the virus than other groups. Early detection and treatment can make all the difference in living a long, healthy life.

“Gay and bisexual men have the largest number of new diagnoses in the United States. Blacks/African Americans and Hispanics/Latinos are disproportionately affected by HIV compared to other racial and ethnic groups. Also, transgender women who have sex with men are among the groups at highest risk for HIV infection, and injection drug users remain at significant risk for getting HIV.”^[1]

If you are having sex, especially unprotected sex, you are at risk. Don't wait and don't depend on luck - know your HIV status by getting tested. The rapid HIV test was designed to produce fast results in less than an hour. Testing is the **ONLY** way to know for sure. You cannot rely on symptoms to know if you are positive. Many who are HIV-positive do not show symptoms for years.

**TAKE ACTION:
GET TESTED, GET CARE, STAY IN CARE, STOP HIV.**

What You Can Do to Protect Yourself and your partner^[2]

- Use condoms the right way every time you have sex. [Learn](#) the right way to use a condom.
- If you are at very high risk for HIV, talk to your doctor about [pre-exposure prophylaxis](#) (PrEP), which is medicine taken daily to prevent HIV.
- Choose [less risky sexual behaviors](#), like oral sex.

- Limit your number of sexual partners.
- Never share needles or drug works.
- Talk to your doctor about [post-exposure prophylaxis](#) (PEP) if you think you may have been exposed to HIV within the last 3 days.

The sooner HIV infection is discovered, the sooner treatment can begin. Ignoring your infection will not make it go away. HIV treatment works, but it is a lifelong process. In order for you to stay healthy, you must get regular HIV medical care.

For more information, questions, or concerns about HIV and other STIs (sexually transmitted infections), either contact us by phone at 1-800-624-2377, text/email at 8006242377@njpies.org, or chat www.njhivstdline.org. Calls are free and confidential. Help is always available. Services are available 24 hours a day, seven (7) days a week, every day of the year.

- Referrals for testing sites and other related services
- HIV, STD and hepatitis prevention and treatment information
- Counseling and treatment locations
- Partner notification
- ADDP

^[1] HIV.gov [Who Is at Risk for HIV?](#)

² CDC. [National Gay Men's HIV/Awareness Day](#).

New Jersey AIDS/HIV/STD Hotline

Healthcare professionals provide telephone consultation for people seeking information about HIV/AIDS, and other sexually transmitted diseases including hepatitis. Callers receive information tailored to their needs; discussion about prevention, referrals for testing sites and other related services, counseling and testing locations, and information on treatment and adverse reactions to medications. The hotline's services are provided by the staff at the hotline, nurses, pharmacists and physicians, administered by the New Jersey Poison Center and funded by the New Jersey Department of Health, Division of HIV, STD, and TB services.

About Rutgers

Established in 1766, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, is America's eighth oldest institution of higher learning and one of the nation's premier public research universities. Serving more than 65,000 students on campuses, centers, institutes and other locations throughout the state, Rutgers is the only public university in New Jersey that is a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities.

Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences (RBHS) is the health care education, research, and clinical division of Rutgers University, comprising nine schools and their attendant faculty practices, centers, institutes and clinics; New Jersey's leading comprehensive cancer care center; and New Jersey's largest behavioral health care network.

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^[1] HIV.gov [Who Is at Risk for HIV?](#)

^[2] CDC. [National Gay Men's HIV/Awareness Day.](#)