

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS**  
State Surgeon General & Secretary

**Vision:** To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 19, 2015

**Contact:** Ryan Mims  
(850) 833-9240 ext. 2162  
Cell: (850) 420-2198

**NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY IS JUNE 27TH**

*~Take the Test. Take Control~*

**OKALOOSA COUNTY** – The Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County (DOH-Okaloosa) is observing National HIV Testing Day by promoting getting tested regularly. DOH-Okaloosa is providing a free promotional gift to individuals that take advantage of their free confidential HIV testing at both clinic locations, Fort Walton Beach and Crestview, during the following dates:

**Fort Walton Beach:** June 22-26

**Crestview:** June 24-26

The public can stop by during normal clinic hours of operation to get tested, and no appointment is needed. Free and confidential HIV testing is available year-round at both DOH-Okaloosa clinic locations.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 get tested for HIV at least once as part of their routine health care. Regardless of age, people at high risk of HIV should get tested more often. The CDC states that “about 50,000 people get infected with HIV each year.” The CDC also states that “about 1.2 million people in the United States were living with HIV at the end of 2011, the most recent year this information was available. Of those people, about 14% do not know they are infected.”

Knowing that one does not have HIV can help that person make better decisions to prevent the spread of the virus. Also, knowing their HIV status can allow individuals with HIV to protect other people from becoming infected. Studies have shown that many people with HIV who know that they are infected avoid behaviors that spread infection to others. HIV-infected persons who do not know that they are infected do not avoid unsafe behaviors. Persons who know they have HIV can get medical care and take antiviral medications that can reduce HIV spread by as much as 96%.

For more information, please visit [floridahealth.gov](http://floridahealth.gov), [cdc.gov/hiv](http://cdc.gov/hiv) and [aids.gov](http://aids.gov). To find a testing center close to you, go to [gettested.cdc.gov](http://gettested.cdc.gov).

The department works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on Twitter at [@HealthyFla](https://twitter.com/HealthyFla) and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/HealthyFla). For more information about the Florida Department of Health, please visit <http://www.floridahealth.gov/>.

###

**Florida Department of Health**  
in OKALOOSA COUNTY  
221 Hospital Dr. NE, Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548  
PHONE: 850/833-9240 • FAX 850/833-9252  
[www.healthyokaloosa.com](http://www.healthyokaloosa.com)

**www.FloridaHealth.gov**  
TWITTER: HealthyFLA  
FACEBOOK: FLDepartmentofHealth  
YOUTUBE: fldoh  
FLICKR: HealthyFla  
PINTEREST: HealthyFla