



PRESS RELEASE

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NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY IS JUNE 27, 2009

Saturday, June 27, 2009 is National HIV Testing Day (NHTD). The goal of NHTD is to educate the public about HIV testing and counseling and to encourage people to learn their HIV status.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that over 56,000 new infections occur every year in the U.S. HIV counseling and testing enables people with HIV to take steps to protect their own health and that of their loved ones, and helps people who test negative get the information they need to stay uninfected.

Across the country, thousands of AIDS Service Organizations, health departments, medical providers and community groups will participate in NHTD events by holding health fairs, providing community outreach and testing events. AIDS Athens will be doing its part as well.

As Northeast Georgia's only AIDS Service Organization, AIDS Athens offers free anonymous HIV testing by appointment all year. On Monday, June 29th, in honor of National HIV Testing Day, we will offer free walk-in testing and extended hours from 9a.m. – 8p.m. as well as an NHTD Community Reception. This reception will occur on the same day from 4 – 6p.m. with Mayor Heidi Davison at AIDS Athens. Mayor Davison will give remarks on the importance of testing and demonstrate the ease of taking an oral test. Like Barack and Michelle Obama did on their trip to Kenya, Mayor Davidson will be joining a trend of responsible leaders demonstrating by example the importance of HIV testing.

AIDS Athens uses the OraQuick test in which participants receive their results in 20 minutes. For directions or for more information, call AIDS Athens at (706) 542-2437 or visit us on the web at www.aidsathens.org.

AIDS Athens, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that serves to address the needs of individuals infected and affected by HIV/AIDS through support services and to prevent the spread of the disease through education and outreach. Our agency provides serves to individuals and families in the 10 county Northeast Georgia area.