

## DOH-ST. JOHNS RECOGNIZES NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY 2023

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**St. Augustine, Fla.** – June 27<sup>th</sup> commemorates National HIV Testing Day, an annual observance highlighting the importance of HIV testing. This year's theme is "Take the Test and Take the Next Step," which emphasizes that knowing your HIV status helps you choose options to stay healthy. The Florida Department of Health in St. Johns (DOH-St. Johns) encourages everyone to take the opportunity to get tested and learn about available HIV treatment and prevention options.

Studies have shown that providing antiretroviral therapy (ART) as early as possible after diagnosis improves a patient's health, reduces transmission, and can eventually lead to undetectable HIV viral loads. People can reduce their risk for HIV by using appropriate prevention strategies, such as taking [pre-exposure prophylaxis \(PrEP\)](#), using protection, and getting tested regularly.

HIV prevention and treatment starts with knowing your status, which means getting tested. DOH-St. Johns offers routine rapid HIV testing by appointment or walk-in as well as PrEP services by appointment. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call DOH-St. Johns at 904-506-6081.

### **Protect yourself. Get tested. Know your status. Learn what is next.**

We have the power to both prevent and treat HIV. Visit [KnowYourHIVStatus.com](https://www.knowyourhivstatus.com) to learn about testing options in your area or to order a free at-home HIV testing kit mailed directly to the address of your choice. For more information, call 1-800-FLA-AIDS or 1-(800) 352-2437; en español, 1-800-545-SIDA; in Creole, 1-800-AIDS-101.

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