



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 10, 2007

National Latino AIDS Awareness Day, Oct. 15
Health District encourages testing

LAS VEGAS – The Southern Nevada Health District and the Nevada Association of Latin Americans (NALA) encourage Southern Nevada’s Hispanic residents to learn their HIV status and to get tested as part of National Latino AIDS Awareness Day, Monday, Oct. 15. The health district offers free and confidential HIV testing at its main location at 625 Shadow Lane and testing will be available from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. on National Latino AIDS Awareness Day. NALA will offer testing between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. at its headquarters, 323 N. Maryland Parkway. Additional testing will be available between 11 p.m. and 3 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 13 at the Back Door Lounge, 1415 E. Charleston Blvd. For additional information about National Latino AIDS Awareness Day, visit www.nlaad.org.

In Southern Nevada, Hispanics account for 16 percent of the 4,734 people with AIDS, 2,168 of whom have died from the illness. Currently, there are 3,363 residents who are living with HIV; of these, 16 percent are Hispanic.

In September 2006, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended that voluntary HIV testing become routine for patients aged 13 to 64 to increase early diagnosis for the more than 250,000 Americans who are unaware they are HIV positive. The CDC noted that studies show that people who are unaware they are HIV positive account for between 50 percent and 70 percent of new sexually transmitted HIV infections.

The health district regularly offers confidential testing services at its main public health center; a separate entrance on the building’s south side ensures clients’ privacy. In addition to testing, the Southern Nevada Health District’s HIV/AIDS program includes counseling, case management, outreach efforts and community referrals. For information, visit the health district’s website, www.SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict.org or call (702) 759-0702.

In addition to the traditional blood test, the health district offers the OraSure HIV-1 oral fluid test that does not use needles as well as the OraQuick Advanced Rapid HIV Antibody Test. Same day results are available with the OraQuick test, which is administered Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., and Thursday morning from 8 a.m. until noon. There is a \$25 fee for the same-day test.

-30-

CONTACTS

Chris Reynolds, Southern Nevada Health District | 702.759.0723
Stephanie Bethel, Southern Nevada Health District | 702.759.1393