



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 23, 2007

National HIV Testing Day, June 27
Health District encourages everyone to get tested

LAS VEGAS – The Southern Nevada Health District will offer free, rapid HIV testing between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday, June 23-Friday, June 27 at its main location, 625 Shadow Lane, Annex A as part of National HIV Testing Day (June 27) and in collaboration with Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN). The testing is only available at the Shadow Lane location and no appointment is necessary. To encourage people to get tested, free rapid testing at the health district's Shadow Lane location will be available between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday, June 30-Thursday, July 3, and Monday, July 7-Friday, July 11. For additional information, contact the health district's Office of AIDS, (702) 759-0702 or visit www.SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict.org.

The health district encourages everyone in the community to learn their HIV status by getting tested as part of National HIV Testing Day. Currently, there are more than 5,500 Southern Nevadans with HIV/AIDS. In 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 do not know they are HIV positive account for between 50 percent and 70 percent of new sexually transmitted HIV infections.

"AIDS remains an international public health problem with millions of people infected with HIV or who are ill with the disease. Because there is still no vaccine or cure more than 25 years into the epidemic, education and prevention through responsible behavior continue to be the best defense against infection," said Dr. Lawrence Sands, Southern Nevada Health District chief health officer. "We encourage people to get tested, to know their status, to get treatment and to take precautions."

The health district offers confidential testing services and counseling at its main public health center, 625 Shadow Lane; a separate entrance on the building's south side ensures clients' privacy.

The health district offers the OraSure HIV-1 oral fluid test or the traditional blood test weekdays at the HIV/AIDS clinic. In addition, the Rapid HIV Antibody Test, which costs \$25, is available Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. and on Thursday morning between 8 a.m. and noon. Rapid testing is **NOT** available on Fridays.

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Health District/National HIV Testing Day - add one

Since 1985, the health district's Office of AIDS has provided community prevention and awareness programs and offers clients HIV pre- and post-test counseling, an adult evaluation clinic for HIV-positive individuals, case management for men, women and children through the Transitional Care Program, assistance with partner counseling/notification, outreach and community referral programs, trainings and education, as well as the distribution of items to prevent the spread of HIV. All services are confidential and no appointment is necessary.