



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 25, 2008

Health District, community partners commemorate 20th World AIDS Day, Dec. 1

LAS VEGAS – The 20th World AIDS Day is Monday, Dec. 1 and the Southern Nevada Health District and its community partners will observe the occasion with events throughout the week, including educational events and conferences, a display of a portion of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, and HIV testing. For more information, contact the Southern Nevada Health District Office of HIV/AIDS, (702) 759-0702.

As of October 31, more than 8,000 Southern Nevadans have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS with more than 2,400 deaths from the illness since 1992. Currently, more than 6,000 residents are living with HIV/AIDS. A recent study by UNAIDS, a joint United Nations program on HIV/AIDS, noted that approximately 33 million people worldwide are living with HIV.

In 2006, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended that voluntary HIV testing become routine for patients between the ages of 13 and 64 to increase early diagnosis for the more than 250,000 Americans who are unaware that they are HIV positive.

According to a recent story by the Associated Press, HIV testing has slightly increased but it is still not as routine as testing for other health concerns such as blood cholesterol levels. Two years after the CDC's recommendations, one in five people infected with the AIDS virus are unaware of their infection.

World AIDS Day was adopted in 1988 by representatives of 140 countries at the World Summit of Ministers of Health on AIDS. The day serves as an opportunity for governments, non-governmental and local organizations, AIDS programs and individuals to increase awareness and demonstrate solidarity in the fight against AIDS.

“There is still no cure or vaccine for AIDS and the illness continues to be an international public health problem with millions of people dying from it annually. Education and prevention 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, know their status, get treatment and take precautions to prevent further spread of HIV.”

In addition to the traditional blood test, the Southern Nevada Health District offers the OraSure HIV-1 oral fluid test that does not use needles. In addition, two types of rapid HIV testing that provide same-day results are available. Both rapid tests are \$25 and are administered Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., and Thursday morning from 8 a.m. until noon; neither rapid test is available on Friday. All HIV testing at the health district is confidential and is available inside the main location at 625 Shadow Lane. There is a separate entrance to ensure clients' privacy.

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World AIDS Day - add one

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.

Confidential HIV testing will take place at the following locations on Monday, December 1:

Southern Nevada Health District
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
625 Shadow Lane, Annex A

Victory Baptist Church
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
1312 "F" Street, North Las Vegas

UNLV/Southern Nevada Health District
1 p.m. - 4 p.m., UNLV Student Health Center

Gay and Lesbian Community Center
1 p.m. - 6 p.m.,
953 East Sahara Ave., B-31, inside Commercial Center

Monday, December 1, 2008

UNLV World AIDS Quilt Display
8 am. - 8 p.m., Moyer Student Union
Overlook Lounge

UNLV Opening Ceremony and Agency Fair
Opening by Dr. Mary Guinan, Dean
UNLV School of Public Health
11 a.m., UNLV Pida Plaza

World AIDS Day Youth Field Day
3 p.m. - 6 p.m., Doc Pearson Center
1625 West Carey Blvd.

UMC Wellness Center Open House
4 p.m. - 7 p.m., UMC Wellness Center
701 Shadow Lane, Suite 200

AFAN/Golden Rainbow Present
Think-Learn-Live World AIDS Day Dinner Soiree
4:30 p.m. - 8 p.m., NOVE Italiano/The Palms Casino
4321 Flamingo Road
\$30 per person
For reservations, call AFAN 382-2326 or www.afanlv.org

UNLV Fashion with Passion Show
Benefits Sin City Sisters of Las Vegas
8 p.m., UNLV Moyer Student Union Ballroom

Tuesday, December 2, 2008

UNLV World AIDS Quilt Display
8 a.m. - 8 p.m., Moyer Student Union
Overlook Lounge

UNLV Sidewalk Chalk Art
11 a.m., UNLV Alumni Walk

Wednesday, December 3, 2008

UNLV World AIDS Quilt Display
8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Moyer Student Union
Overlook Lounge

AIDS Awareness Conference (HIV Testing Offered)
10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Nevada Partners
710 W. Lake Mead Blvd.

UNLV Multicultural Perspectives in AIDS
Brown Bag Series
11 a.m., UNLV Moyer Student Union Room 219

UNLV Film/Discussion:
A Closer Walk (a Global Look at AIDS/HIV)
6:30 p.m., Moyer Student Union Theater

Thursday, December 4, 2008

UNLV World AIDS Quilt Display
8 a.m. - 8 p.m., Moyer Student Union
Overlook Lounge

Saturday, December 6, 2008
Family Health Rally
10 a.m. - 3 p.m., John Edmond's Town Center
1021 W. Owens