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Established in 1945, DuPage County Health Department promotes physical and emotional health; prevents illness injury and disability; protects health from environmental risk factors, and strives to assure the provision of accessible, quality service.

December 1, 2020

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Learn Your HIV Status-World AIDS Day is December 1

**DUPAGE COUNTY**— The only way to know for sure whether you have HIV is to get tested. Knowing your status is important because it helps you make healthy decisions to prevent getting or transmitting HIV. Testing is still important and available during the pandemic.

World AIDS Day, which has been observed since 1988, is important because it reminds the public, healthcare providers, and the government that HIV has not gone away—there is still a vital need to raise money, increase awareness, fight prejudice and stigma, and improve education.

The theme for World AIDS Day 2020 is “Ending the HIV/AIDS Epidemic: Resilience and Impact.” The [2020 theme](#) focuses on the impact of the global commitment to deliver quality, people-centered HIV prevention, and treatment services. Also, the focus is on strengthening the capacity and resilience of communities and health systems to address HIV services amid a global pandemic. Learn what you can do to promote HIV prevention, treatment, care, and research by visiting [HIV.gov](http://HIV.gov) and [CDC.gov/hiv](http://CDC.gov/hiv).

More tools than ever are now available to prevent HIV. If you have HIV or are at risk, it’s important to make choices that keep you healthy and protect others. You can use strategies such as abstinence (not having sex), limiting your number of sexual partners, never sharing needles, and using condoms the right way every time you have sex. You may also be able to take advantage of HIV prevention medicines such as [pre-exposure prophylaxis](#) (PrEP) and [post-exposure prophylaxis](#) (PEP).

Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is a once-daily pill that, when taken as prescribed, can protect HIV-negative people at high risk for infection. PrEP is up to 99 percent effective at preventing the sexual transmission of HIV and at least 74 percent effective for people who inject drugs. The

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**STAY SAFE  
DUPAGE**



DuPage County Health Department offers PrEP as part of its Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic services and also provides PrEP trainings to healthcare providers.

DuPage County residents may be tested for HIV through several options including doctors' offices, home-test kits, and at the Health Department's Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Clinic, which provides screening, counseling, and referrals. HIV testing is provided at no cost.

For information about HIV testing, PrEP, and treatment options in DuPage County, contact the Health Department at (630) 682-7400.

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