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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, 2022  
**For Immediate Release**

## **Learn Your HIV Status – World AIDS Day is December 1**

**DuPage County** – The DuPage County Health Department is encouraging individuals to know their HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) status by getting tested on World AIDS Day, December 1. Early knowledge of HIV status provides access to life-extending treatment options.

World AIDS Day is dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS epidemic caused by the spread of HIV infection. AIDS is a chronic, potentially life-threatening condition caused by HIV. By damaging your immune system, HIV interferes with your body's ability to fight the organisms that cause disease.

The theme for World AIDS Day 2022 is “Putting Ourselves to the Test: Achieving Equity to End HIV.” This theme emphasizes accountability and action, highlighting the importance of HIV testing. Learn what you can do to promote health equity, as well as HIV prevention, treatment, care, and research by visiting [HIV.gov](https://www.hiv.gov) and [CDC.gov/hiv](https://www.cdc.gov/hiv).

More tools than ever are 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
- using condoms the right way every time you have sex.

You may also be able to take advantage of HIV prevention medicines, such as those used for 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.

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DuPage County Health Department offers PrEP at no cost as part of its Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic services and also provides PrEP trainings to healthcare providers.

DuPage County residents can 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, through the DuPage County Health Department, 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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