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HIV Alliance hosts two testing events on National HIV Testing Day

National HIV Testing is observed each year on June 27th to encourage individuals to get tested for HIV and seek appropriate care. HIV testing allows people to engage in care to stay healthy, regardless of their test results. HIV Alliance helps individuals gain access to both preventative and treatment options.

People who receive a negative test result can take advantage of HIV prevention methods such as condoms, getting tested regularly, and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). PrEP is a medication that reduces your chances of getting HIV from sex or injection drug use. When taken as prescribed, PrEP reduces the risk of getting HIV from sex by 99% and by 74% among those who inject drugs.

For people who receive a positive test result they can start HIV treatment to stay healthy. Antiretroviral therapy, also known as ART, involves taking a prescribed medication to reduce the viral load in an individual's body. There is also an injectable HIV treatment, which requires regular visits to a primary care provider to receive. HIV Alliance provides primary care out of its Eugene office. Typically, individuals who use the HIV injection treatment start their treatment journey with ART. Individuals need to consult with their provider before switching to HIV injection treatment.

Both of these treatments are also used for viral suppression, which means having less than 200 copies of HIV per milliliter of blood. When an individual is experiencing viral suppression, it means that the HIV virus is undetectable. Being undetectable means that it is both untransmissible and prevents HIV from progressing in the individual, allowing them to live long and healthy lives. There is currently not a cure for HIV, but with ART treatment most people are able to get the virus under control within six months.

According to the Oregon Health Authority, there were an estimated 8,220 people living with HIV in Oregon in 2022. Of those individuals it is estimated 1,110 people are undiagnosed. Among people diagnosed with HIV, 77% are virally suppressed, which means that they cannot transmit HIV to their sexual partners. The CDC recommends all people, regardless of sexual orientation, are tested for HIV at least once.

HIV Alliance will be hosting two free testing events on National HIV Testing Day. See Details below.

Eugene: HIV Testing at Eugene Park Blocks

Where: 30 E Broadway #124, Eugene, OR 97401
When: June 27th, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Roseburg: HIV Testing at ADAPT

Where: 621 W Madrone St., Roseburg, OR 97470
When: June 27th, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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