



"Your Local
Health Department"

NEWS RELEASE

November 30, 2017

Branch - Hillsdale - St. Joseph Community Health Agency

570 N. Marshall Road
Coldwater, MI 49036
(517) 279-9561
Fax (517) 278-2923

20 Care Drive
Hillsdale, MI 49242
(517) 437-7395
Fax (517) 437-0166

1110 Hill Street
Three Rivers, MI 49093
(269) 273-2161
Fax (269) 273-2452

www.bhsj.org

Rebecca Burns, Health Officer
517-279-9561, ext. 0148#

Valarie Newton
Director of Personal Health and Disease Prevention
517-279-9561, ext. 0143#

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

World AIDS Day 2017

This Friday December 1st is World AIDS Day. World AIDS Day is observed each year on December 1st as a way to raise awareness and bring attention to global AIDS epidemic. World AIDS Day is an important reminder that HIV has not gone away. Currently more than 1.2 million Americans including over 15,000 Michiganders, are living with HIV. On average, HIV is spread to 50,000 people in the United States every year. People with HIV who do not know that they are infected may spread it to others and will not get the important treatment that can help keep them healthy for many years.

The Center for Disease and Control estimates that 90% of these new cases could be prevented by testing and diagnosis. The CDC also recommends that everyone between the age of 13-64 get tested for HIV at least once. Women who are pregnant should be tested to protect their health and to prevent the spread of HIV to their baby. Those with certain risk factors should be tested at least once a year including those with one or more sexual partners; people who have an STD; people who inject drugs and men having sex with men (MSM).

The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency offers HIV testing and counseling at all of our office sites. All HIV testing is kept confidential, anonymous and is available free of charge

for those who qualify. There are three options patients can choose from to test for HIV. The first option is to have blood work done. The second option is to have the rapid test which consists of pricking the finger and gives results to you in 30 minutes or less. The third option is to do an oral swap from the side of your cheek. The health department has trained staff in testing and counseling who can help assist people in understanding both their risk and their test results.

If you are interested in being tested for HIV, please contact your local health department office and schedule an appointment. To learn more about HIV/AIDS, testing and counseling or if you have any questions, please visit our website at www.bhsj.org/Clinic/HIV.htm and like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/BHSJWIC/