



# MEDIA RELEASE

KNOX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

140 Dameron Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917-6413

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **World AIDS Day commemorated December 1, 2015** *KCHD urges everyone to get tested at least once in their lifetime*

*Knoxville, Tenn.* – Observed worldwide on Dec. 1 since 1998, World AIDS Day is the moment when millions of people come together to commemorate those who have lost their lives to HIV, applaud progress made in responding to the epidemic and recommit to eradicating the disease.

“Tremendous scientific strides offer hope of a brighter future for those living with HIV. Now, more than ever, it is crucial that those infected with HIV get tested and get medical care,” said Knox County Health Department (KCHD) Director Dr. Martha Buchanan. “Early detection and care can save lives.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates more than 1.1 million Americans aged 13 years and older are living with HIV infection, including 180,900 who are unaware of their infection. Everyone aged 13 to 64 is encouraged to get tested for HIV at least once. Although there is no cure, getting medical care and taking medicines regularly helps those infected live longer, healthier lives and also lowers the chances of passing HIV on to others.

HIV testing is covered as a preventive service with no co-pay by most insurance plans. KCHD offers resources and local referral information to medical providers who want information on how to start the conversation with patients.

Confidential HIV testing is also available at all three KCHD locations:

Main Clinic and Offices  
140 Dameron Ave.  
Knoxville, TN 37917  
865-215-5370

Teague Clinic  
405 Dante Rd.  
Knoxville, TN 37918  
865-215-5500

West Clinic  
1028 Old Cedar Bluff Rd.  
Knoxville, TN 37923  
865-215-5950

In addition, the following free HIV testing events are offered in cooperation with Samaritan Ministry, Project ACT and Helen Ross McNabb Center to commemorate World AIDS Day:

- Thursday, Nov. 19, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., Hodges Library, Room 213, University of Tennessee
- Tuesday, Dec. 1, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Pellissippi State Community College, Hardin Valley
- Thursday, Dec. 3, 9 – 11 p.m., The Edge, 7211 Kingston Pike, Knoxville
- Friday, Dec. 4, 9 – 11 p.m., XYZ Club, 1215 N. Central St., Knoxville

### **About Knox County Health Department:**

The Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is a governmental agency dedicated to making every person a healthy person. As the first health department in Tennessee to achieve national accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board, KCHD’s mission is to encourage, promote and assure the development of an active, healthy community through innovative public health practices. The organization conducts disease surveillance, prevention and control; emergency preparedness; nutrition and physical activity promotion; tobacco use prevention; health equity promotion; immunizations; and much more. For more information, visit [www.knoxcounty.org/health](http://www.knoxcounty.org/health).

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