



Central Michigan District Health Department

Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities



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PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

To: Local Newspaper

From: Central Michigan Health Department - Health Promotion

RE: World AIDS Day – December 1st

Release Date: Immediately (November 16, 2021)

World AIDS Day #WorldAIDSDay

Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD) supports World AIDS Day, Wednesday, December 1, 2021. First observed in 1988, World AIDS Day was initiated by health ministers from around the world who called for a spirit of social tolerance and a greater awareness of HIV/AIDS on an international scale. The 2021 theme for observance is, “Ending the HIV Epidemic: Equitable Access, Everyone’s Voice”. Every year, agencies from across the world bring attention to the HIV epidemic to increase HIV awareness and knowledge to speak out against HIV stigma.

In Michigan, the prevalence of HIV continues to increase because the number of new diagnoses is larger than the number of deaths. This is largely due to improved anti-retroviral medications. According to the 2020 Michigan Statewide HIV Surveillance Report, the reported prevalence of HIV was 17, 348 with 309 deaths among PLWH (people living with HIV) during 2020.

What can you do? You can wear a red ribbon, which is an international symbol of AIDS awareness that can be worn by people all year and particularly around World AIDS Day to demonstrate care and concern about HIV and AIDS. CMDHD will be doing its part in recognizing World AIDS Day by offering evening testing appointments at their Isabella County office. Do your part by getting tested yourself to know your own HIV status and receive your very own red ribbon. **Central Michigan District Health Department offers HIV testing by appointment. Call (989) 773-5921 ext. 1409 to make an appointment.**

This article has been brought to you by Central Michigan District Health Department, which serves the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola, and Roscommon. Visit our website at www.cmdhd.org, LIKE Central Michigan District Health Department on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @CMiDHD.

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To request an interview, please visit our website (cmdhd.org) and fill out the [Media Interview Request Form](#).

Please visit us at our website www.cmdhd.org

Sources :

[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/HIV Prevalence Report Slides 2021 738755 7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/HIV_Prevalence_Report_Slides_2021_738755_7.pdf)

<https://www.hiv.gov/events/awareness-days/world-aids-day>