

LIVINGSTON COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

2 Murray Hill Drive
Mt. Morris, New York 14510-1691



Jennifer Rodriguez, M.S.
Public Health Director

Phone (585) 243-7270
Fax (585) 243-7287
dept-of-health@co.livingston.ny.us
www.livingstoncounty.us/doh.htm

Administration & Fiscal: (585) 243-7270/(585) 335-1716 *Fax:* (585) 243-7287
Dog Control: (585) 243-6740/(585) 335-1720/ *Fax:* (585) 243-6751
Environmental Health: (585) 243-7280/(585) 335-1717 *Fax:* (585) 243-6793
Patient Services: (585) 243-7290/(585) 335-1719 *Fax:* (585) 243-6795
Preventive Services: (585) 243-7299/(585) 335-1718 *Fax:* (585) 243-6794

"IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE TODAY, FOR A HEALTHIER TOMORROW"

Press Release

Release Date: Immediate-December
Questions? Grace Flannery
Public Health Educator
Livingston County Department of Health
585-243-7522

World AIDS Day: Make a Difference

December 1st is World AIDS Day and is commemorated as such worldwide. Around the world, about 36.7 million people are living with HIV. In the United States, about 50,000 people get infected with HIV every year. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in seven people do not know they are infected. It's important that everyone ages 15 to 65 gets tested for HIV at least once. Some people may need to get tested more often.

How can World AIDS Day make a difference? We can use this day to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS, encourage people to get tested, and take action to support people living with HIV.

Do you know your HIV status? According to the New York State Department of Health, more than 650 people in Livingston County may be infected with HIV. It is likely that half of these individuals are under the age of 25. More disturbing and of dire consequence to these individuals and to our community, many of those who are infected have not yet been diagnosed, are not receiving life-saving treatment and can potentially infect others. On a more positive note, recent breakthroughs in the medical field have changed a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS from terminal to a treatable life-long disease. By knowing your HIV status, you can protect yourself, your sexual partner, and your baby in the event that you are or become pregnant. Most people don't think of themselves or their partners as being at risk for contracting HIV and fail to protect themselves by using condoms consistently. You should be tested if:

- You have had unprotected sex
- You have injected drugs
- You have ever had a sexually transmitted disease
- You have or have had multiple sexual partners
- Your sexual partner (or their previous partners) meet any of the risk criteria above

The Livingston County Reproductive Health Centers offers Rapid HIV testing with results in 20 minutes. The low or no cost confidential test is available to men, women, and teens at any of our three community sites (Avon, Dansville, and Mt. Morris) and for SUNY Geneseo students at the campus health center. For more information or to make an appointment for your Rapid HIV test please call 585-243-7540 or 1-800-243-9240 or visit our website at www.livingstoncounty.us/doh.htm

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