



**Public Health**  
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Frederick County Health Department

# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**AUGUST 24, 2021**

## NATIONAL FAITH & HIV AWARENESS DAY

**FREDERICK, MD --** On Friday August 27, the Frederick County Health Department, in partnership with Seton Center Incorporated, will be offering free and confidential Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) tests in observance of National Faith and HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. National Faith HIV & AIDS Awareness Day was created with the goal to unite people of different beliefs to take a stand against stigma in their congregations and raise awareness of HIV/AIDS.

In 2019, 36,801 people received a HIV diagnosis in the United States. Out of the 931 people in Maryland diagnosed with HIV, Frederick County has seen 13 new diagnoses. Frederick County has reached 93% viral suppression rate, which is one of the highest rates in the state. A person who is virally suppressed, or has an undetectable viral load, cannot transmit the virus through sexual contact. The Frederick County Health Department and Seton Center Inc. continues to support, test, educate and prevent the spread of HIV through various programs and events throughout the year.

The following services will be available to the public: food distribution, Hepatitis C and Syphilis testing, overdose response training, harm reduction, COVID-19 vaccine with Johnson & Johnson and Pfizer, COVID testing, and confidential HIV screenings. Incentives will be provided. This event will be held from 11am-2pm at the Seton Center Outreach and Family Store, 226 East Lincoln Ave, Emmitsburg MD 21727. For more information, visit <https://health.frederickcountymd.gov/> or call 301-600-1733.

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