



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Health Department Observes World AIDS Day with a Call to Action for HIV Awareness and Prevention

FREDERICK, MD — The Frederick County Health Department (FCHD) will be joining communities across the globe in observing World AIDS Day on December 1st. World AIDS Day is a time to reflect on the progress made in the fight against HIV and AIDS, remember those we have lost, and recommit to the ongoing fight for a world without HIV. FCHD will be participating in an AIDS Walk on Saturday, December 7, 2024 in partnership with The Frederick HIV Coalition. The walk begins at the Bandshell in Baker Park and ends at The Frederick Center's new location at 5 East 2nd Street in downtown Frederick. The event begins at 1:30PM and ends at 3:30PM. FCHD will be providing free HIV testing, educational materials, and resources about prevention and treatment options to participants and the entire community.

"We stay committed to ending HIV," said Rebecca Coyle, Coordinator of Special Programs of the Frederick County Health Department's HIV program. "Despite the strides we've made, we still have a lot of work to do to ensure that everyone has access to routine testing, life-saving HIV prevention and treatment. World AIDS Day is an opportunity to raise awareness, celebrate our resilience, and remember those who continue to be impacted by this epidemic."

World AIDS Day serves as a reminder that HIV is preventable and treatable, but continued advocacy is necessary to ensure that people everywhere have the support they need to live healthy, fulfilling lives. The theme for World AIDS Day 2024, "Ending the HIV Epidemic: Resilience, Action, and Hope," highlights the continued efforts to reduce the stigma surrounding HIV, increase access to prevention and care, and continue progress toward a cure. This year's observance will focus on the importance of education, outreach, and making HIV testing and treatment accessible to all communities. For more information about World AIDS Day events, or to get involved, please call 301-600-1733.

The Frederick County Health Department is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of individuals affected by HIV and related health disparities. Walk-in HIV testing is available Tuesdays and Fridays from 9AM-3PM. Appointments are available outside of those times by calling 301-600-1733. For more information, visit Health.FrederickCountyMD.gov/HIV.

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