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Date: 6/23/2016 10:47:26 AM
Subject: FW: DHEC encourages HIV testing in recognition of National HIV Testing Day

From: S.C. DHEC
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2016 10:47:19 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
To: Agency Info,
Subject: DHEC encourages HIV testing in recognition of National HIV Testing Day

For Immediate Release
June 23, 2016

Contact: DHEC Media Relations
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DHEC encourages HIV testing in recognition of National HIV Testing Day

COLUMBIA, S.C. - National HIV Testing Day is June 27, 2016, and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is encouraging South Carolinians to get tested.

"More than 16,000 individuals are currently living with HIV/AIDS in South Carolina," said DHEC Director of Health Services Lisa Davis. "Early detection through testing for HIV remains essential to successfully identifying and treating the disease and is critical to preventing new infections."

One in eight people living with HIV in the United States don't know they have it. That means they are not receiving the care and treatment necessary to help improve their health and prevent transmission.

"Most people in the early stages of HIV infection have no symptoms," Davis said. "Early diagnosis can link people to services that will help them stay healthy longer, benefit most from treatment, reduce costly hospital visits and help prevent transmission to others."

According to the CDC, an estimated 90 percent of new HIV infections in the United States could be prevented by testing and diagnosing people who have HIV and ensuring they receive prompt, ongoing care and treatment. National HIV Testing Day promotes HIV testing and early diagnosis. Through DHEC clinics and partnering community

providers, testing in 2015 helped diagnose and link 496 people to HIV medical care who otherwise might have not known their status until much later.

For more information about HIV testing, as well as local HIV testing sites, call DHEC's AIDS/STD Hotline at 1-800-322-AIDS (1-800-322-2437), or visit DHEC's website at scdhec.gov/HIV.

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This year, testing and other events will be held at the following locations across the state in observance of National HIV Testing Day:

Thursday, June 23, 2016

HopeHealth Edisto
Partner Testing
1857 Joe S. Jeffords Highway
Orangeburg, S.C. 29115
9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Palmetto AIDS Life Support Services
Walgreens
1223 St. Andrews Rd.
Columbia, S.C. 29210
3 p.m.- 7 p.m.

Saturday, June 25, 2016

Palmetto AIDS Life Support Services
Walgreens
1223 St. Andrews Rd.
Columbia, S.C. 29210
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Monday, June 27, 2016

Fetter Health Care Network
51 Nassau St.
Charleston, S.C. 29403
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

AHF, Eau Claire CHC, PALSS, SCHAC
Backyard BBQ Bash
1228 Harden St.
Columbia, S.C. 29204
2 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Sandhills Medical Foundation
2468 Main St.
Elgin, S.C. 29045

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

CareSouth Carolina Inc. Care Innovations

Walgreens

901 S. 5th St.

Hartsville, S.C. 29550

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Piedmont Care, Inc.

Wells Fargo Building

101 N. Pine St. Ste. 200

Spartanburg, S.C. 29302

8:30 a.m. - noon; 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

S.C. Department of Health & Environmental Control, 1751 Calhoun St., Columbia, SC 29201

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