



The Maryland State Medical Society

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JUNE 27 IS NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY

BALTIMORE, June 27, 2016 — In the United States one in 8 people living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) don't know they have it since many people with HIV don't have any symptoms. MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, encourages you to help change this by spreading the word about National HIV Testing Day on June 27.

HIV is the virus that causes AIDS. Even if you don't feel sick, getting early treatment for HIV is important. Early treatment can help you live a longer, healthier life. Treatment can also make it less likely that you will pass HIV on to other people. The only way to know if you have HIV is to get tested.

MedChi urges communities and health care practitioners to use National HIV Testing Day to raise awareness about the importance of HIV testing.

- Motivate teachers and administrators to talk about HIV prevention and testing in their schools.
- Encourage families to have a conversation about staying protected and getting tested for HIV.
- Work with the local news media to get a story covered about National HIV Testing Day in your community.

MedChi CEO, Gene Ransom, states "Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, the health care reform law passed in 2010, insurance plans must cover HIV testing. Talk to your physician to learn more. Free HIV testing is also available at some testing centers and health clinics."

For more information, visit www.medchi.org.

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. Formed in 1799, it is still the largest physician organization in Maryland today. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.