



The Maryland State Medical Society

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JUNE 27 IS NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY

BALTIMORE, June 14, 2013 — One in 5 people living with HIV in the U.S. don't know they have it. HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) is the virus that causes AIDS and many people with HIV don't have any symptoms. The only way for people to know if they have HIV is to get tested. Encourage people to take the test and take control.

In honor of National HIV Testing Day, which is June 27th, MedChi encourages you to get tested for HIV. The only way to know if you have HIV is to get tested. Even if you don't feel sick, getting early treatment for HIV is important: early treatment can help you live a longer, healthier life.

Dr. Brian Avin, MedChi President, states "More than half of American adults have never been tested for HIV. And right now, at least 1 in 3 people who test positive for HIV are tested too late to get all the benefits of treatment."

HIV is passed from one person to another by:

- Having unprotected sex (vaginal, anal, or oral) with a person who has HIV
- Sharing needles with someone who has HIV
- Breastfeeding, pregnancy, or childbirth if the mother has HIV
- Getting a blood transfusion that has HIV (very rare in the U.S.)

HIV testing is covered for many people under the Affordable Care Act, the health care reform law passed in 2010. Depending on your insurance plan, you may be able to get tested at no cost to you. Talk to your insurance provider.

For more information, visit www.medchi.org.

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. 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.