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HEALTH & WELFARE

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Idaho Facing HIV for World AIDS Day

Nearly 1,200 Idahoans live with HIV or AIDS, with more than 50 new cases reported in Idaho in 2009. People can show support for those affected, their families, caregivers and friends – and take advantage of HIV testing – at a number of events around the state on Tuesday, World AIDS Day.

“It only takes one instance of putting yourself at risk to become infected,” says Annabeth Elliott, Health and Welfare’s STD program coordinator. “Many new cases reported this year are in young people and those who live in rural areas who never thought they were at risk. It’s important to know your risk – and to know your status.”

Some World AIDS Day events around the state are offering HIV testing. To find out if you are at risk and need to be tested, you can visit www.safesex.idaho.gov or www.nakedtruth.idaho.gov. It’s vital that those with the disease find out as soon as possible in order to begin the lifelong challenge of treating and managing it.

Historically, discrimination toward those living with HIV raised barriers to testing, made it difficult to access medical care, and prevented HIV positive individuals from feeling safe in their community. World AIDS Day events are designed to address some of these challenges, to remember the 25 million people who have died of AIDS and to commemorate the 33 million people world wide living with HIV or AIDS. The day’s events also are designed to provide education about the face of the disease today.

Since the inception of World AIDS Day 21 years ago, the many faces of HIV/AIDS have changed dramatically. The advent of new medications allows many individuals to live normal life expectancies, though the medications can often-times have significant side effects. The support of family, friends, and community are crucial to the ability to stay productive and healthy.

“For many infected persons, you probably could never tell they had the disease,” says Elliott. “Commemorate World AIDS Day this year by supporting those with the disease and taking time to assess your own risk.”

Additional information about HIV is available at www.cdc.gov.

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(Editors: For more information please contact IDHW Public Information Officer Emily Simnitt at 334-0693.)

World AIDS Day 2009

Idaho Scheduled Events

Boise

Tuesday, December 1

7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Red Ribbon Distribution in downtown Boise and participating schools & businesses

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Free Rapid HIV Testing, Gibson Room, Boise State University (BSU) Student Union Building (SUB)

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Lecture by HIV/AIDS Prevention Speaker "Personal Experiences of Prevention of HIV/AIDS" BSU SUB Bravo Stage-Dining Services (mini reception following)

6:00 p.m. to 7pm, The first meeting of a weekly Support Group for those affected by HIV and AIDS, call 424-7799 for more information.

8:00 p.m AIDS Vigil, Ann Morrison Park Fountain, near circle of trees planted for those who have passed. Dress warm, bring a candle, & wear a ribbon (some heat, candles & ribbons will be provided)

9 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. "Shop for Good" at the Boise Co-op, 4% of business sale donated to a.i.p.h.a.

Brought to you by the Student Involvement & Leadership Center, Health, Wellness, & Counseling and Allies Linked for the Prevention of HIV and AIDS. If you are interested in having a table at this event or have further questions, please contact Kara Matthews at karamatthews@boisestate.edu or Anh Tran at (208) 426-2861 or by e-mail at anhtran@boisestate.edu.

Coeur d'Alene

Tuesday, December 1

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. HIV testing and information at North Idaho College (NIC)

5:00 p.m. AIDS Walk & Candle Light Vigil from NIC campus to Calypso's Coffee Co., 116 E. Lakeside Ave.

6:00 p.m. Open mic contest and raffle at Calypso's Coffee

Brought to you by North Idaho AIDS Coalition (NIAC), NIC, Panhandle Health District, North Idaho HIV Planning Group and Calypso's Coffee Co. For more information contact NIAC at 208-665-1448 or info@northidahoaidscoalition.org. For open mic registration or information, contact Calypso's Coffee Co. at 208-665-0591 or info@calypsoscoffee.com.

Moscow

Tuesday, December 1

All day Free Condoms, Commons

4:00 p.m. Film, "Silent Shame" JEB 104

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Free Confidential HIV Testing. Check-in, Commons Redfish Room

Moscow, (cont.)

Thursday, December 3

12:30 p.m. Lavender Lunch with Jim Breedlove, Student Diversity Center

7:00 p.m. Rebekka Armstrong SUB Ballroom

Friday, December 4

12:00 p.m. Film, "Three Girls I Know" Women's Center

Brought to you by ASUI Center for Volunteerism and Social Action, ASUI Vandal Entertainment, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Women's Center, LGBTQA Office.

Twin Falls

Tuesday December 1

11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Free rapid HIV testing for students and staff along with an HIV information table, Taylor Building, College of Southern Idaho.

12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Interactive session on HIV with Jill Schultz, RN and Stacie Benkula, RN, Fireside room. Refreshments will be provided

Brought to you by South Central District Health, College of Southern Idaho and Alpha

Pocatello

Tuesday, December 1

7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. First Congregational United Church of Christ, 309 North Garfield Avenue

Dave Hachey, Pharm.D., professor at ISU will speak

Personal videos from young adults living with HIV/AIDS from around the world produced by Hope's Voice Campaign: "Does HIV Look Like Me?"

The celebration will include a tree lighting ceremony, a candle-lighting ceremony and memorial service. Refreshments and red ribbons will be served.

Sponsored by the HIV Prevention Regional Planning Council - Southeastern District Public Health Department, Idaho State University, and Genesis Project, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Hosting the event is the First Congregational United Church of Christ, 309 North Garfield Avenue.

Idaho Falls

Tuesday, December 1

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Free Rapid HIV testing at the Elk's Club

Brought to you by Breaking Boundaries and the Eastern Idaho Public Health Dept.