Greene County Public Health
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Press Release

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Greene County Public Health Recognizes World AIDS Day on December 1

XENIA, OH – December 1 is **World AIDS Day**, a day to raise awareness about HIV, remember those who have died from AIDS-related illnesses, and support people living with HIV.

This year's theme, **"Ending AIDS Starts with Access,"** focuses on making HIV testing, prevention, and treatment available to everyone.

Greene County Public Health (GCPH) encourages residents to learn about HIV, know their status, and take steps to protect their health. Getting tested is an important part of preventing the spread of HIV. Early testing also helps people get the care and treatment they need.

"Everyone deserves access to HIV testing, prevention, and treatment," said Harley Dawson, health educator at Greene County Public Health. "Knowing your HIV status is an important step in taking care of your health."

Greene County Public Health offers walk-in HIV testing every Wednesday from **8 a.m. to 4 p.m.** No appointment is needed during these hours.

Free condoms and safer sex kits are also available at GCPH. These resources can help people make informed choices and lower their risk of getting HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

HIV is a virus that attacks the body's immune system. Without treatment, it can lead to AIDS. There is no cure for HIV, but treatment can help people with HIV live long, healthy lives. People who take HIV medicine as prescribed and maintain an undetectable viral load cannot pass HIV to their sexual partners. This is known as Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U).

World AIDS Day is a reminder that access to testing, prevention, and treatment matters. Learning the facts, getting tested, and supporting others can help reduce the spread of HIV and end the stigma surrounding the virus.

For more information about HIV testing and prevention services, contact Harley Dawson at 937-374-5617 or email hdawson@greenecophoh.gov. Visit www.greenecophoh.gov for more information.

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