

## **Greene County Public Health**

Melissa Howell MS, MBA, MPH, RN, REHS, Health Commissioner Kevin L. Sharrett, MD, Medical Director

**Press Release** 

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## Walgreens and KFF's Greater Than HIV Join with Community Partners to Offer Free HIV and STD Testing on June 27

**XENIA, OH** – <u>Walgreens</u> and Greater Than HIV/STDs, a public information campaign from <u>KFF</u>, are joining with health departments and community organizations to provide free rapid HIV, syphilis and hepatitis C testing at more than 575 Walgreens stores on June 27 for the nation's largest National HIV Testing Day (NHTD) event.

With more than 415 local testing partners in nearly all states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico, this year's activation marks a record level of participation in the partnership's 15-year history. Since 2011, KFF's <u>Greater Than HIV and Walgreens National HIV Community Partnership</u> has provided more than 93,000 free HIV/STD tests through the in-store NHTD program.

On Friday, June 27 from 10:00 am-4:00 pm, Greene County Public Health professionals will have the new mobile unit at the Walgreens located at 537 W. Main Street in Xenia to provide confidential HIV testing and information (results in 20 minutes or less), as well as answer questions about HIV prevention and treatment options, and provide referrals for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis), FDAapproved medications that are highly effective in preventing HIV, as well as Hep C and Syphilis testing. Everyone should know their HIV status. Testing is the only way.

"This year's record-breaking National HIV Testing Day activation shows the power of public-private partnership," KFF Senior Vice President Tina Hoff said. "Together with Walgreens and hundreds of community organizations from across the nation, we're reaching more people than ever with free, fast HIV and STD testing—and expanding awareness about powerful new prevention tools like PrEP and doxy PEP, along with advances in treatment."

"The Greater Than campaign plays a vital role in reaching those in need with accessible information about the latest in HIV and STD testing, prevention and treatment," said Rick Gates, chief pharmacy officer, Walgreens. "All Walgreens pharmacists receive HIV prevention and destigmatization training, and about 3,000 of our specialty and community pharmacists have completed advanced training in HIV treatment and prevention. Partnering once again with KFF strengthens our ability to help patients access the care and support they need most."

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HIV and STD testing will be available on-site in a private area of the store or mobile unit, administered by trained counselors, with results available in 20 minutes or less. Information about the latest developments in prevention, including PrEP and doxy PEP, as well as advances in treatment, will also be available.

With ongoing high rates of syphilis, including congenital syphilis (transmission during pregnancy or delivery), along with other STDs in the U.S., the activation expanded last year to include additional testing offerings.

More than 22,000 rapid HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis C tests have been donated to support this year's activation by leading manufacturers, including Diagnostics Direct, NOWDiagnostics, OraSure Technologies, Chembio Diagnostics, and bioLytical Laboratories.

For more information about Greene County Public Health's HIV Prevention program, call Samantha at 937-374-5652, or email swebb@greenecophoh.gov.

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