

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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WORLD AIDS DAY RECOGNITION, DECEMBER 3, 2018 **“Know Your Status”**

Erie, PA – In observance of World Aids Day, the Erie County HIV Task Force is proud to host a display featuring the “Aids Memorial Quilt” to honor those who have lost their battle with HIV, those fighting the disease, and the family and friends of those of those affected by the disease.

The display will be open Monday, December 3, from 9:30 a.m. to noon in the Admiral Room at the Blasco Library, 160 E. Front St. **A program will be held at 10 a.m.**

World AIDS Day is a global initiative to raise awareness, fight prejudice and improve education about HIV and encourage testing for HIV. On World AIDS Day, which is December 1, the Erie County HIV Task Force encourages everyone in Erie County from ages 15 to 65 to get tested at least once for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. In the United States, about 1 in 7 people who has HIV is unaware of their infection. The only way to know for sure whether or not you have HIV is to get tested. You could have HIV and still feel healthy.

There are medications and treatment for HIV. Knowing your HIV status allows the opportunity for early treatment and control of the infection. Delays in treatment can lead to further HIV transmission and reduction in the length and quality of life for these individuals. Around the world, about 34 million people are living with HIV. In the United States, about 50,000 people get infected with HIV every year.

HIV testing is available free of charge at the Erie County Department of Health, 606 W. Second St., Erie; Adagio Health, 240 W. 11th St., Erie; Community Health Net, 1202 State St., Erie; and 118 Plum St., Edinboro. For information about testing, call the Erie County Department of Health at 814-451-6714.

For more information, visit www.echiv.org, <https://www.facebook.com/eriecountyhivtaskforce> or www.cdc.gov/hiv.

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