

# MEDIA RELEASE

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



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## 2019 HIV Awareness Walk set for Sept. 16

Erie, PA – The Erie County HIV Task Force, Erie County Department of Health, and Northwest Alliance will host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Erie County HIV Awareness Walk on Monday, Sept. 16, 2019, at 5 p.m.

Walkers will gather at the LEAF Education Center at Frontier Park for the approximate 1.5-mile walk. We invite all to walk and help to raise awareness about HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

The Task Force and the Erie County Department of Health are working together to combat this disease by building a culture of compassion, understanding and care to those living with HIV and those at risk for contracting the infection.

We strongly encourage everyone ages 15 to 65 in Erie County, who is sexually active or IV drug users, to get tested annually for HIV. In the United States, 1.1 million people are living with HIV. It is estimated that one in seven people, which equals about 165,000 people, are living with HIV and are not aware they have this disease. We want to make HIV testing a routine practice in all healthcare settings.

Everyone can help prevent the spread of HIV. Talk to your healthcare provider about HIV testing and discuss ways you can reduce your risk of HIV. Please visit the Task Force's website at <https://echiv.org> for a list of organizations throughout the county that offer free confidential HIV testing as well as sites that provide free condoms. If we work together, we can make a positive difference in the fight against HIV in Erie County.

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

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