FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY IS JUNE 27, 2016
MORGANTOWN, WV – JUNE 24, 2016

June 27 is National HIV Testing Day, a day to get the facts, get tested, and get involved!

Around 1.2 million people in the United States are living with HIV, and one in eight people don’t know they have it. Nearly 45,000 people find out they have HIV every year.

More than 90% of new HIV infections in the United States could be prevented by testing and diagnosing people living with HIV and making sure they receive early, ongoing treatment.

HIV testing is the gateway to prevention and care:

- People who test negative have more prevention tools available today than ever before.
- People who test positive can take HIV medicines that can keep them healthy for many years and greatly reduce their chance of passing HIV to others.

What Can You Do?

Learn about HIV, and share this lifesaving information with your family, friends, and community. Tell them about the importance of making HIV testing a part of their regular health routine.

Be aware that there are ways to prevent HIV exposure. In addition to abstinence, limiting your number of sexual partners, never sharing needles, and using condoms correctly and consistently every time you have sex. There are now pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) medications. These medications can be made available to those persons who may be entering into a situation where they might be exposed to HIV or a situation where they may have been exposed to HIV. These types of situations are closely related to a person’s lifestyle and/or occupation. Check with your healthcare provider for more information.

Know that the only way to know if you are infected with HIV is to be tested. You cannot rely on symptoms to know whether you have HIV. Many people who are infected with HIV do not have any symptoms at all for 10 years or more.

CDC recommends that everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 get tested for HIV at least once as part of routine health care. People with certain risk factors should get tested more often. Your healthcare provider can help you determine if you fall into one of these risk categories and how often you should get tested.
The Monongalia County Health Department offers Sexually-Transmitted Diseases (STD) education, testing and treatment services in partnership with the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health. The STD program works to prevent the spread and resulting effects of STDs. Services are available to males and females, including adolescents. All STD testing is confidential and provided free of charge, regardless of income. Condoms are always available for free.

To schedule an appointment please call (304) 598-5119 or visit our website at: www.monchd.org

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