



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 3, 2011

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, Feb. 7
Health district encourages testing

LAS VEGAS – The Southern Nevada Health District encourages everyone to learn their HIV status. Monday, Feb. 7 is National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. In Clark County, approximately 25 percent of people living with HIV/AIDS are African-American. Testing is always available at the health district and no appointment is necessary. For additional information and testing information, contact the health district's office of HIV/AIDS, (702) 759-0702 or visit www.SNHD.info.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one in 16 black men will be diagnosed with HIV at some point in his lifetime as will one in 30 black women. In 2006, African-Americans accounted for 45 percent of new HIV infections; the rate of HIV infections for black women was nearly 15 times as high as the rate for white women and four times that of Hispanic women.

The goal of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is to focus efforts on testing, which is vital to begin treatment, to connect people to care services and to limit the spread. It is also an opportunity to provide educational information to the African-American community about risks associated with HIV infection and prevention methods. Early diagnosis is critical for people who are HIV positive so they can benefit from treatment. It is estimated that nearly 40 percent of people with HIV are not diagnosed until they have developed AIDS, which can occur 10 years after infection.

Additional recommendations from the CDC include annual testing for individuals who engage in high-risk sexual behavior or use intravenous drugs. Pregnant women should be tested during the early months of their pregnancy to help eliminate transmission of HIV to their infants.

The Southern Nevada Health District's Office of HIV/AIDS/STDs is located inside Annex A at the health district's main public health center, 625 Shadow Lane. Services include confidential testing, counseling, case management and referrals. The health district offers several HIV test options, some with same-day results. In addition, testing is available at several locations throughout the community.

The health district and its partners will offer free testing at the following locations:

Monday, Feb. 7

8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Southern Nevada Health District
625 Shadow Lane, Annex A, Las Vegas, 89106
(702) 759-0702

1:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Gay and Lesbian Center of So. Nevada
953 E. Sahara Ave., B-31, Las Vegas 89104
(702) 733-9800

-more-

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day – add one

Tues, Feb. 8, Wed. Feb. 9

1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Richard Steele Boxing Facility

2475 W. Cheyenne Ave., #120, North Las Vegas, 89032

(702) 759-0707

The health district encourages everyone in the community to learn their HIV status. Currently, there are more than 5,900 people living with HIV/AIDS in Southern Nevada.

Updated information about the Southern Nevada Health District can be found on Facebook www.facebook.com/SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict, on YouTube www.youtube.com/SNHealthDistrict or Twitter www.twitter.com/SNHDinfo.