

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2014

## 'Know Your Status' Health district encourages testing

**LAS VEGAS** – Know your status? The Southern Nevada Health District and the Gay and Lesbian Center of Southern Nevada will kick off a monthly Saturday HIV/STD testing clinic on May 3. The clinic will be available from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. The monthly clinic will be the first Saturday of each month at the Gay and Lesbian Center of Southern Nevada, 401 S. Maryland Parkway. For more information, visit the health district website, <u>www.SNHD.info</u> or contact the Gay and Lesbian Center, (702) 733-9800.

Appointments are not needed and the monthly Saturday clinic will offer free HIV/STD screenings. Results for HIV, syphilis, gonorrhea and Chlamydia tests will take approximately two weeks and will be available by calling the Southern Nevada Health District's Sexual Health Clinic, (702) 759-0702. All testing is confidential.

The Center conducted a survey recently to identify the needs of the community it serves. The nontraditional clinic hours are an opportunity to provide testing services for more people in the community. The health district encourages everyone to learn his or her HIV status.

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 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 Sexual Health Clinic is located at 400 Shadow Lane, Suite 106. 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.

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'Know Your Status' Clinic - add one

In addition to testing at the Sexual Health Clinic, weekly HIV/ STD screenings are available at the following locations:

Monday-Friday 10:30 a.m12:30 p.m./1:30–5 p.m. Free HIV/STD screening	Gay & Lesbian Center of Southern Nevada, (702) 733-9800 401 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas
Tuesday Noon-5 p.m. Free HIV/STD screening	Richard Steele Boxing Facility, (702) 638-1308 2475 West Cheyenne Ave., #120, North Las Vegas
Tuesday 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Free HIV/hepatitis B and C screening	Community Counseling Center, (702) 369-8700 714 E. Sahara Ave., Las Vegas

The health district encourages everyone in the community to learn their HIV status. Currently, there are more than 6,000 people living with HIV/AIDS in Southern Nevada.

Updated information about the Southern Nevada Health District can be found on Facebook <u>www.facebook.com/SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict</u>, on YouTube: <u>www.youtube.com/SNHealthDistrict</u> or Twitter: <u>www.twitter.com/SNHDinfo</u>. The health district is now available in Spanish on Twitter <u>www.twitter.com/TuSNHD</u>. Don't have a Twitter account? Follow the health district on your phone by texting "follow SNHDinfo" to 40404.

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