FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“TEST YOUR WAY- DO IT TODAY”- HIV TESTING DAY IS TUESDAY
MORGANTOWN, WV – JUNE 26, 2017

Tuesday, June 27, 2017 is National HIV Testing Day. It’s the day to get the facts, get tested, and to get involved!

“Test your way. Do it today” is the theme for 2017. It is an important time to get involved. Testing and diagnosing people living with HIV and making sure that they receive early and ongoing treatment can help prevent over 90% of new HIV infections in the United States.

Estimates of 1.1 million people in the United States are living with HIV, and 1 in 7 people don’t know that they have contracted the disease. Nearly 40,000 people find out they have contracted HIV every year.

HIV testing is the leading pathway to prevention and care of the disease.

• Negative testers have more prevention tools available today than ever before
• Positive testers can take HIV medicines that can help keep them healthy for many years and highly reduce their chance of passing the disease to others.

What Can One 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 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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