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Julissa Coriano, LCSW, M.Ed.  
Founder, Orgullo Delaware  
Founder, Delaware Sexuality & Gender Collective  
(302) 505-5577

David Mariner  
Executive Director, Sussex Pride  
(302) 265-4165

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

## National Latinx HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Observed in Delaware

DELAWARE — National Latinx HIV/AIDS Awareness Day will be observed in Delaware on Sunday, October 15, in an effort to encourage testing and treatment and to raise awareness by recognizing the impact HIV/AIDS has on the Latinx community.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Latinx community is disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS, accounting for 29% of all new HIV diagnoses in the United States in 2019.

Latines and Black Delawareans are more likely to test positive for HIV late in the disease progression, which can have a negative impact on treatment outcomes. Latines make up approximately 10% of the community, but account for 15% of late stage diagnoses. Black Delawareans make up approximately 23% of the state population but account for 62% of late stage diagnoses. Late-stage HIV diagnosis occurs when a person is diagnosed with stage 3 HIV, or AIDS, within 90 days of testing positive for HIV.

“National Latinx HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is an important opportunity for us to come together to raise awareness and to be reminded of the impact HIV and AIDS has on our community,” said licensed clinical sexuality therapist Julissa Coriano, Sussex Pride Board Member and founder of Orgullo Delaware, an organization that provides mental health therapy and advocacy for LGBTQIA-identified Latines. “We need to continue to encourage everyone to get tested regularly so they can know their status, and we need to continue to educate all on the support available for those who are living with HIV and AIDS.”

### **About National Latinx HIV/AIDS Awareness Day**

Since 2003, National Latinx HIV/AIDS Awareness Day has been observed annually on October 15th. The day aims to increase awareness about the impact HIV/AIDS has on the Latinx community and to encourage HIV

testing, treatment, and prevention strategies. The day is also an opportunity to recognize the contributions of those in the Latinx community who advocate and educate in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

We encourage members of the public who are interested in learning more about National Latinx HIV/AIDS Awareness Day to visit:

The CDC: [www.cdc.gov/features/latinoaidawareness/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/features/latinoaidawareness/index.html).

The Latino Commission on AIDS: <https://www.latinoaids.org/>

**For free and confidential rapid HIV testing and support in Delaware:**

Latin American Community Center - Wilmington

(302) 442-7740

<https://www.thelatincenter.org/hiv-program>

Planned Parenthood of Delaware - Wilmington, Newark, Dover, Seaford

(302) 655-7293

<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-delaware>

*Orgullo Delaware is an organization for LGBTQIA Latinx Individuals and their families in the state of Delaware. Orgullo Delaware is a platform responsible for education, resources, and social networking.*

<https://www.facebook.com/OrgulloDelaware>

*Sussex Pride works to celebrate, strengthen, and support the LGBTQ+ community in Sussex County and the state of Delaware, working through a social justice lens. We focus on arts & culture, health & wellness, social and support groups, and advocacy for our community.*

[www.sussexpride.org](http://www.sussexpride.org)