



06/06/2024

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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

## Sussex Pride Launches Free HIV & Syphilis Testing Statewide Delawareans Encouraged to Participate in National HIV Testing Day

Delaware, 6/6/2024 - Each year on June 27th, the United States observes National HIV Testing Day, shedding light on the critical importance of early detection and educating communities about the ongoing HIV epidemic. This year, Sussex Pride is taking an important step towards strengthening HIV testing efforts with a new partnership to offer free HIV and syphilis testing at over 20 convenient locations all across the state of Delaware.

National HIV Testing Day is an opportunity to emphasize the importance of HIV testing and encourage community members to take charge of their sexual health. Recognizing the disproportionate impact of HIV within the LGBTQ+ community, Sussex Pride has undertaken a new partnership with STDcheck to make sure everyone in Delaware has access to local, convenient, and free HIV & syphilis testing.

David Mariner, Executive Director of Sussex Pride states: "If you are HIV positive, the sooner you know, the better. Early and sustained treatment can help you live a long and healthy life. It can also help protect others." HIV positive individuals who take antiretroviral therapy (ART) daily as prescribed, and maintain an undetectable viral load, cannot sexually transmit the virus."

Sussex Pride encourages Delawareans to observe National HIV Testing Day by scheduling their own HIV test. The process is simple. Enter your zip code online to find a nearby location, then call STDcheck to schedule an appointment at a time that is convenient for you. Be sure to mention Sussex Pride so that your test will be free. Get started at [sussexpride.org/hiv](https://sussexpride.org/hiv).

David Mariner states "We are thrilled with this new partnership with STDcheck. The ultimate goal is to empower individuals with knowledge about their HIV status, provide necessary support, and facilitate early intervention to improve health outcomes in our state."

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About Sussex Pride:

Sussex Pride is dedicated to promoting inclusivity, acceptance, and equality for the LGBTQ+ community in Delaware. The organization actively engages in community-based initiatives, educational programs, and advocacy efforts to foster a safe and supportive environment for all individuals.