

# NEWS



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Commissioner of Health

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Orange County Executive

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**For Immediate Release**

For more information, contact the Office of the  
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## **OC Health Department Recognizes National HIV Testing Day** *Free Testing Available at Various Sites throughout County*

**Goshen** – While HIV and AIDS may no longer be topping the headlines on a regular basis, they continue to be very real, very terrible diseases reminds Dr. Jean M. Hudson, Orange County Commissioner of Health. To bring attention to the important role testing plays in slowing the spread of HIV/AIDS, Monday, June 27 has been designated National HIV Testing Day.

“Early HIV diagnosis is critical, so people who are infected can fully benefit from available life-saving treatments and be aware of the precautions they can take to prevent the disease from spreading to others,” said Dr. Hudson.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), almost 40 percent of people with HIV are not diagnosed until they already have developed AIDS. That can be up to 10 years after they first became infected with HIV. “Finding out whether you are infected with HIV is the first step to improving your health and protecting the health of your partners and your family,” added Dr. Hudson.

In recognition of National HIV Testing Day, the Greater Hudson Valley Family Health Center will be offering free HIV testing from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, June 24 at their location at 147 Lake Street, Newburgh.

On Monday, June 27 the Middletown Community Health Center will be offering free HIV testing from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at their Middletown location at 10 Benton Avenue and in Port Jervis at 140 Hammond Street from 1 to 4 p.m.

Hudson River Healthcare is also offering free HIV testing on Monday, June 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at their 75 Orange Avenue location in Walden.

The Orange County Department of Health’s Division of Public Health Nursing offers free Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) and HIV clinics every Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. at

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141 Broadway, Newburgh and every Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. at 33 Fulton Plaza, Middletown. Free hepatitis vaccines are also available.

The testing is free, fast, easy, and confidential. Using the OraQuick Advance Rapid HIV antibody testing, which utilizes a swab swiped inside the mouth; results are available in approximately 30 minutes in most cases. The Health Department offers pre- and post-testing counseling by certified counselors.

For more information, visit the Health Department's Public Health pages on the Orange County website at [www.orangecountygov.com](http://www.orangecountygov.com).

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