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SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS  
COMMUNICATIONS

# NEWS

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **World AIDS Day: December 1**

(Sedgwick County, Kansas) – The Sedgwick County Health Department will recognize World AIDS Day by providing free, confidential tests for HIV/AIDS at 2716 W. Central on Tuesday, December 1 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Additionally, the Health Department will be assisting with free, rapid results testing of Wichita State University (WSU) students at the Rhatigan Student Center, on the WSU campus. This testing will occur Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Appointments are not needed for either location.

World AIDS Day is the day the world recognizes the health and safety concerns associated with HIV and AIDS. According to the World Health Organization, there are more than 33 million people living with HIV worldwide; there are more than 1 million HIV-positive individuals living in the U.S. More than 4,000 Kansans have HIV or AIDS; in Sedgwick County, there are 696 people living with HIV/AIDS (according to 2008 data). The groups with the greatest increases in new cases are African Americans, Hispanics and women. (Source: HIV/AIDS Surveillance System 2008).

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“It is estimated that 50 to 70 percent of new HIV infections are transmitted by individuals who didn’t know they were infected,” stated Sedgwick County Health Department Director Claudia Blackburn. “By getting tested and being aware of how to prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS, you have the power to reduce the spread and effects of this disease.” Early detection can also provide a person with better treatment options—prolonging quality of life.

Testing, counseling and prevention tools are available at the Sedgwick County Health Department and information is available on the Sedgwick County Web site at [www.sedgwickcounty.org](http://www.sedgwickcounty.org).

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