

SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS - COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO OFFER FREE HIV TESTING TOMORROW TO COMMEMORATE WORLD AIDS DAY

(Sedgwick County, Kan.) – The Sedgwick County Health Department STD Clinic will honor World AIDS Day by offering free conventional and rapid HIV testing from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. tomorrow at 2716 W. Central. World AIDS Day is held on December 1 each year and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV and memorialize those who have died.

This year's theme is *The Time to Act is Now.* There are approximately 1 million people living with HIV in the US with about one in eight of those that are unaware of their infections. About one in four new HIV infections are among youth ages 13 to 24. Most of them do not know they are infected, are not getting treated, and can unknowingly pass the virus on to others. With early diagnosis, individuals can be placed in treatment and care resulting in better health outcomes.

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