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NEWS

SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS – COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN WORLD AIDS DAY

(Sedgwick County, Kan.) – More than thirty years after the first cases of HIV/ AIDS surfaced, these diseases are still serious health problems that require our attention.

The theme of this year's observance is "Shared Responsibility: Strengthening Results for an AIDS-Free Generation." This annual observance provides an opportunity for governments, faith groups, community organizations, businesses and communities to raise awareness and focus attention on the global HIV/AIDS epidemic.

In the U.S., nearly 1.1 million people are living with HIV infection, and one in five of those are unaware of their HIV status. Worldwide, the estimated number of people living with HIV is more than 35 million. World AIDS Day is an opportunity to reflect on the impact HIV/AIDS has had on our world. This year, take action through education, prevention and testing to help stop the spread of HIV.

In order to promote regular testing, raise awareness and commemorate those who have lost their battles with HIV/AIDS, the Sedgwick County Health Department will participate in World AIDS Days by offering the following testing on Monday, Dec. 2:

- Free conventional venipuncture HIV testing at the Main Clinic, 2716 W. Central in Wichita, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Appointments are preferred, but walk-in appointments will be available.
- Free rapid testing for students and faculty at Wichita State University from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the main lobby of Ahlberg Hall, conducted by Sedgwick County Health Department Behavioral Intervention Specialist (BIS) staff.

For more information, contact the Sedgwick County Health Department at 316-660-7300, or visit www.sedgwickcounty.org.

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