

Nov. 16, 2018

THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN LAKE COUNTY TO HOST THE 9TH ANNUAL WORLD AIDS DAY CELEBRATION OF LIFE



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Eustis, FL – The Florida Department of Health in Lake County will host their 9th Annual World AIDS day celebration of life event at Berry Park located at 2121 Johns Avenue, Leesburg, Florida on Friday, November 30, from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM. A portion of the National AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on public display and HIV testing and Hepatitis B vaccinations as well as flu shots will be provided at no cost. The event is free and open to the public.

World AIDS Day is a global campaign to end AIDS and help bring awareness of the disease worldwide. First organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1988, the World AIDS Day theme for 2018 is “Know Your Status.”

The most recent statistics state that Florida ranks third in the nation in the number of AIDS cases and at the end of February 2017 a total of 116,944 adults in Florida were living with HIV. As well as 2,044 new cases of Aids in 2017. In Florida, 30% of all cases were among persons aged 20-29. For 23 consecutive years HIV/AIDS has been the leading cause of death for black females between the ages of 25-44 and is currently the 3rd leading cause of death for black males ages 25-44. In February 2017 New data also suggests that in Lake County we have reported 178 new cases of HIV in the last 5 years and 106 new cases of Aids.

It is important to know that every 9 ½ minutes, another person in the United States becomes infected with HIV. HIV/AIDS knows no boundaries; it affects all of us, regardless of our race, gender, or income. That is why it is important to “Take the Test, Take Control”.

In addition to the free rapid 20-minute testing offered at the event, the Florida Department of Health in Lake County can perform a mouth swab to test for HIV, which will be sent to the State laboratory. Results are available in approximately 2 weeks.

For more information, please contact the Florida Department of Health’s Disease Control Program office at 352-771-5547, visit our website at <http://lake.floridahealth.gov/> or follow us on Twitter at [@FLHealthLake](https://twitter.com/FLHealthLake)

About the Florida Department of Health

The department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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