



COUNTY OF ORANGE – HEALTH CARE AGENCY

PRESS RELEASE

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“Do it your Way. Do it Right.” National Latinx AIDS Awareness Day

(Santa Ana) – The last day of Hispanic Heritage Month, October 15, has been designated National Latinx AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD) and this year NLAAD celebrates 20 years of raising awareness in the Latinx community about the importance of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) testing, prevention, and treatment. NLAAD is focused on raising awareness about:

- Getting tested and knowing your HIV status;
- Using condoms for protection from HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs);
- Knowing prevention options if HIV-negative, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) may help protect you from getting HIV; and
- Learning about new treatment options to get and stay virally suppressed, which means having an undetectable viral load, if HIV-positive.

This year’s campaign theme “Do it your Way. Do it Right.” highlights different ways to prevent HIV. There are many options to protect yourself from HIV, you can do it your way and choose what is right for you. There are now more options for HIV treatment and prevention such as injectable HIV medication administered once a month for HIV treatment or once every two months for HIV prevention.

NLAAD is important in Orange County (OC) because, at the end of 2022, there were 6,916 persons living with HIV locally. According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates, there are an additional 1,288 OC residents living with HIV and do not know it.

While the Latinx population represents about 34% of the total population in OC, they represented more than half (or 58%) of those newly diagnosed with HIV in 2022.

Many of these people had been to an emergency room, a community health center, or their doctor but were not tested for HIV. According to the Latino Commission on AIDS, in 2021, 55% of Latinx had never been tested for HIV in their lifetime¹. Therefore, it is crucial that the Latinx community have routine HIV testing as part of their medical care.

Every adolescent and adult should get an HIV test at least once as part of routine health care, and those at increased risk of HIV should be tested more regularly. Knowing your HIV status is important to help prevent new HIV infections.

Ending the HIV epidemic requires everyone to do their part. If you have never been tested for HIV, ask your doctor for an HIV test. Free, confidential HIV testing is available at the agencies listed below.

- **AltaMed:** Call **(714) 500-0491** or visit [HIV Testing Services \(altamed.org\)](http://HIV%20Testing%20Services%20(altamed.org))
 - Testing is offered Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 - Testing information is also available on social media at <https://www.instagram.com/growproud>

- **APAIT Health Center:** Call **(714) 636-1349** or visit www.apaitonline.org/ for more information.
 - Testing is offered Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 - Walk-ins are welcome. Appointments are preferred.

- **Families Together Orange County:** Call **(800) 597-7977** or visit <https://familiestogetheroc.org/>. Testing is offered at three locations:
 - Tustin:
 - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 - Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 - Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (limited Saturday appointments)
 - Garden Grove:
 - Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 - Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (limited Saturday appointments; every 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month)
 - Fountain Valley:
 - Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- **OC Health Care Agency/17th Street Testing, Treatment and Care Clinic:** Call **(714) 834-8787** to make an appointment or visit <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/std> for more information. Walk-ins are accepted based on availability. Clinic hours:
 - Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 - Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- **Radiant Health Centers:** Call **(949) 809-5700** or visit www.radianthealthcenters.org/ for more information. Walk-ins based only on availability, please call first. Hours:
 - Tuesday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- **The LGBT Center Orange County:** For an appointment or more information call **(714) 953-5428** or visit www.lgbtcenteroc.org/. Testing is offered:
 - Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
 - Wednesday and Thursday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
 - Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more testing sites and information about HIV services in OC, please call **(714) 834-8335** or visit www.ochealthinfo.com/phs/about/dcepi/hiv/sites. To list or find NLAAD events visit www.nlaad.org.

¹ National Latinx AIDS Awareness Day. *Infographics: HIV Among Latinos.* <https://nlaad.org/>

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