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DHS NEWS

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Free HIV Testing for South L.A. Residents

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (June 11, 2010) -- In recognition of National HIV Testing Day this month, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Multi-Service Ambulatory Care Center (MLK MACC) will offer free HIV tests and health information on Friday, June 25, from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM. The event will be held at the OASIS Clinic on the MLK MACC campus, located at 1807 E. 120th Street. Music and light refreshments will be provided.

"HIV and AIDS are still prevalent in this community," said Wilbert Jordan, MD, director of the OASIS Clinic, "and we are seeing rising rates of infection, especially among young adults." Jordan, who has been on the front lines of fighting the AIDS epidemic for more than 27 years, says early detection and treatment is essential for managing the disease. "The best prevention is to get tested and get educated on reducing risk factors."

In addition to free & confidential rapid HIV testing (results in 20 minutes), pre & post HIV counseling and support services, HIV health promotion, oral health, blood pressure, and diabetes education will be offered.

National HIV Testing Day (NHTD) is an annual campaign by the National Association of People with AIDS to encourage people of all ages to "Take the Test, Take Control." 40 percent of people with HIV are not diagnosed until they already have developed AIDS, which can be up to 10 years after the date of infection. More information on NHTD and HIV is available at www.cdc.gov.

Community organizations, including the Gay & Lesbian Community Center, Covenant House, Christian Food Center and Women Alive are expected to take part.

EDITOR: To interview Dr. Wilbert Jordan on services provided at the OASIS Clinic, advances in HIV/AIDS therapies, or HIV trends, please contact Verba Robinson at (310) 668-5033.

The MLK MACC, part of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, offers low cost medical services for the entire family. The facility operates an Urgent Care Center open seven days a week. To schedule an appointment or learn about available services, call the County's toll free information line, 2-1-1.
