



BCHD PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Seniors Offered Free HIV Testing During National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day Events

15.7 percent of new HIV diagnoses in Maryland are people age 50-60

BALTIMORE, MD (September 13, 2011) – The Baltimore City Health Department’s Office of Aging & CARE Services is partnering with Older Women Embracing Life (OWEL) and the Johns Hopkins Local Performance Site of the PA/MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center (AETC) to observe National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day on Friday, Sept. 16th.

This year’s theme is "Aging is a part of life; HIV doesn't have to be."

For the first time in Baltimore, 12 participating city senior centers will serve as free HIV testing sites during a week-long public awareness campaign. In addition to testing, seniors will have access to prevention education and awareness materials and giveaways at participating senior centers. Testing will be done by the Health Department, Park West Health System, Sisters Together And Reaching (STAR), the JACQUES Initiative, Total Health Care, Women Accepting Responsibility (WAR), and The Coalition of Baltimore HIV Providers.

The AIDS Institute launched the National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day on Sept. 18, 2008, to draw attention to the complex issues related to HIV prevention, care and treatment for aging populations in the United States. Nationally, there are many older adults who have HIV, but have not been diagnosed or made aware of their HIV/AIDS status. In 2008-09, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported persons aged 50 and older accounted for approximately 17 percent of new HIV/AIDS diagnoses. This group is also the fastest growing population segment, and by 2015, the CDC estimates that one-half of Americans with HIV will be age 50 and older.

“By encouraging and promoting HIV testing among older Baltimoreans, we hope to break down the stigma that this is a young-persons’ disease,” said Commissioner of Health Dr. Oxiris Barbot. “We encourage seniors who are, or have been, engaged in sexually high-risk behaviors to get tested regularly.”

The following senior centers are scheduled to participate and offer free HIV testing:

- **Tuesday, Sept. 13:**

- Edward A. Myerberg Senior Center, 3101 Fallstaff Road, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. 410-358-6856.
- **Wednesday, Sept. 14:**
 - Oliver Senior Center, 1700 N. Gay St., 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. 410-396-3861.
 - Harford Senior Center, 4920 Harford Road, 10:00 a.m. – noon. 410-426-4009.
 - Zeta Center for Healthy and Active Adults, 4501 Reisterstown Road, noon – 2:00 p.m. 410-396-3535.
 - Hatton Senior Center, 2825 Fait Ave., 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. 410-396-9025.
- **Thursday, Sept. 15:**
 - Sandtown-Winchester Senior Center, 1601 N. Baker St., 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. 410-396-7724.
- **Friday, Sept. 16:**
 - Cherry Hill Senior Life Center, 606 Cherry Hill Road, Suite 201, 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. 410-354-5101.
 - John Booth Senior Center, 229 ½ S. Eaton St., 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. 410-396-9202.
 - Allen Senior Center, 1404 S. Charles St., 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. 410-685-6224.
 - Waxter Center for Senior Citizens, 1000 Cathedral St., 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. 410-396-1324.
 - Forest Park Senior Center, 4801 Liberty Heights Ave., 10 a.m. – noon.
 - Senior Network of North Baltimore, 5828 York Road, noon – 1:30 p.m. 410-323-7131

For more information about National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day, visit <http://www.theaidsinstitute.org/education/hivaids-and-aging-awareness>. For more information about confidential HIV and STD testing in Baltimore, visit our Website at <http://www.baltimorehealth.org>.

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