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## **Damien Center to offer free and confidential HIV testing on National HIV Testing Day, June 27**

*People encouraged to get tested so they know their status and can get linked to care and treatment right away*

**What:** National HIV Testing Day (NHTD) is June 27. This annual event encourages people to get tested for HIV, know their status, and get linked to care and treatment right away. [Damien Center](#) will be offering FREE and confidential HIV testing on-site throughout the day. HIV testing is done through a quick finger prick blood sample, so getting tested is easy and test results are available within 20 minutes. Damien Center also offers free and confidential HIV and STI testing every weekday and on three Saturdays throughout the month. For more information check out the [testing section](#) of Damien Center website or call the testing desk at 317.632.0123.

This year's theme, *Doing It My Way*, is a call to action that encourages people to get tested for HIV in a way that is comfortable for them. You can test at your health care provider's office, at another [testing site](#), or even at home. You can test alone or go with a partner, friend, or family member. However you choose to do it, get tested and know your current HIV status.

**Why:** People who test positive for HIV can lead long, healthy lives through medication and other methods. The only way to know if someone has HIV is to get tested. Knowing your status gives peace of mind and the power to take your health into your own hands.

CDC recommends that everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 get tested for HIV at least once as part of routine health care and those at [high risk](#) get tested at least once a year. Some sexually active gay and bisexual men may benefit from more frequent testing (every 3 to 6 months).

**When:** Thursday, June 27, 2019      8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.      Walk-in appointments only

**Where:** Damien Center, 26 N. Arsenal Ave., Indianapolis

### **Statistics:**

- About 1.1 million people in the United States have HIV, and 1 in 7 people with HIV in the U.S. don't know they have it.
- In 2017, a total of 12,635 persons were living with HIV/AIDS in Indiana.
- In 2016, new HIV infections were estimated to be at 39,782 in the United States.

### **About Damien Center:**

Damien Center is Indiana's oldest and largest AIDS service organization, and leads the effort to prevent the spread of HIV. The Center opened in 1987 and offers a one-stop-shop model of care that includes preventive, supportive, and medical services that empowers people in Central Indiana affected by HIV/AIDS to move forward each day with dignity so they may live abundant and productive lives. Damien Center believes passionately in the dignity and worth of every person who seeks their services and strives to be a safe and welcoming place so that no barriers separate people from the services they need to prolong and enhance their lives. For more information visit: <http://www.damien.org> or follow them on Twitter at @DamienCenter or like them on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/thedamiencenter/>