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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **June 27 is National HIV Testing Day, Legacy offering free HIV testing** *Legacy Community Health will offer HIV testing at no cost, with options for HIV treatment or prevention for those who need it*

**HOUSTON – (June 23, 2023)** – Per [HIV.gov](https://www.hiv.gov), National HIV Testing Day (NHTD) is observed on June 27th each year to emphasize and encourage HIV testing. Knowledge of one’s HIV status is the first step to accessing prevention or treatment services that enable individuals to live long and healthy lives, regardless of whether they’re living with HIV or not.

Free HIV testing by Legacy Community Health will take place on June 27 at the following clinic locations:

- **Gulfton Dashwood**, 5420 Dashwood Drive
- **Montrose**, 1415 California Street
- **Wellness Bar by Legacy**, 120 Westheimer Rd., Ste. F
- **Fifth Ward**, 3811 Lyons Ave.
- **Northline**, 5598-A1 North Freeway, Northtown Plaza
- **Santa Clara**, 5616 Lawndale St., Ste A108
- **Southwest**, 6441 High Star
- **Central Beaumont**, 450 North 11th St, Beaumont, TX

Legacy is also partnering with Greater Than AIDS to provide free HIV testing at two Houston-Area Walgreens locations from 10AM to 7PM:

- **Walgreens**, 6730 Hillcroft Street
- **Walgreens**, 5202 Alameda Road

Legacy also offers free at-home HIV testing kits. The at-home kits offer fast results in the privacy of your own home, and come with the same patient navigation that you would receive if you had your test done in person, regardless of the result of the test. You can find more information on the at-home testing kits and how they work [here](#).

“Knowing your status is essential to ending the HIV pandemic,” says Jill Jahns, MPH, Health Navigation Director at Legacy Community Health. “Get tested. If you’re living with HIV, there are treatment options that can bring down your viral load to undetectable and untransmittable levels. If you’re not living with HIV, there are prevention methods to keep it that way. Together, organizations like Legacy, in partnership with our communities, can end HIV.”

“Undetectable” and “untransmittable” mean that a person living with HIV has achieved and is maintaining a low, undetectable viral load—the amount of HIV in the blood—by taking and adhering to

antiretroviral therapy (ART) as prescribed, and consequently [cannot sexually transmit the virus to others](#).

One of the best methods for prevention is PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis), which can be taken both orally or as an injectable to prevent the passing of HIV. If you have been exposed to HIV, PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis) can prevent HIV if taken up to 72 hours after exposure. PrEP, PEP, and ART may be accessed through a Legacy provider and at Wellness Bar by Legacy.

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**About Legacy Community Health Services, Inc.:**

Legacy Community Health is a full-service health care system comprised of over 50 locations in the Texas Gulf Coast region offering primary and specialty care, as well as pharmacy services. For over 40 years, Legacy has been innovating the ways we provide comprehensive, quality health care services to underserved communities. As the largest Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in Texas and a United Way affiliated agency since 1990, Legacy ensures its services and programs are open to all, regardless of the ability to pay—without judgment or exception. To learn more, visit [www.legacycommunityhealth.org](http://www.legacycommunityhealth.org).