

Dear Colleague,

December 1 is World AIDS Day, a day to renew our commitment to improving the lives of people with HIV and ensuring equitable access to prevention services. **With the upcoming 2023 World AIDS Day, we ask you to partner with us to end the HIV epidemic in Allegheny County.**

Today, people with HIV can live long, healthy lives thanks to improved treatment. Plus, powerful prevention tools — including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) — can practically eliminate transmission. Yet, despite these successes, **progress has slowed** and far too many people in Allegheny County still are not benefiting equally from HIV prevention and care. In 2022, there were **72 new diagnoses** in Allegheny County and approximately 1 in 7 of these were late diagnoses (i.e., diagnosed with AIDS within 90 days of HIV diagnosis).

AIDS Free Pittsburgh is a public health movement committed to ending the HIV epidemic in Allegheny County by 2030. **AIDS Free Pittsburgh asks that this World AIDS Day you and your clinic commit to:**

1. **Normalizing routine HIV testing:** It is recommended everyone receive a test in their lifetime, and for many more frequently. If testing is not available at your clinic, you can refer to other locations.
2. **Increasing access to PrEP:** Identifying eligible individuals and prescribing PrEP (pill or injection) is key to prevention. If your clinic does not prescribe PrEP, you can refer patients to other locations.
3. **Improving linkage to care:** Efficiently linking individuals who test positive to treatment (ideally within 24-48 hours) ensures better health outcomes and faster times to viral suppression.

AIDS Free Pittsburgh provides support to local clinics to help with your HIV prevention efforts. AIDS Free Pittsburgh offers the following:

1. **Lunch and Learns:** We provide information on testing, prevention, and care to your clinic staff.
2. **Care Options Guide:** Local clinics have “RAPID” phone numbers if somebody tests positive, which bypass central scheduling to ensure patients start treatment immediately (see Resources).
3. **PrEP Toolkit for Providers:** AIDS Free Pittsburgh has developed a guide to assist with prescribing PrEP (see Resources).
4. **Patient Resources for Your Clinic:** We have included a sample of these. Contact us to request more for your clinic free of charge.
5. **Linkage to Ryan White Program:** For individuals with HIV and an income $\leq 500\%$ of the Federal Poverty Level, medical/support services are available. Contact us for assistance referring patients.

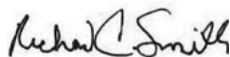
Contact AIDS Free Pittsburgh at info@aidsfreepittsburgh.org or 412-773-1120.

Your partnership is key to ending the HIV epidemic. Thank you for recommitting to this effort on this World AIDS Day and for all that you do to ensure the wellbeing of residents in southwestern Pennsylvania.

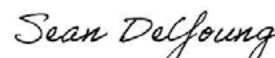
Sincerely,



Kell Wilkinson
AIDS Free Pittsburgh
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Richard Smith
Project Director, HIV/AIDS Team,
Jewish Healthcare Foundation
AIDS Free Pittsburgh
Advisory Group Co-Chair



Sean DeYoung
Chief Executive Officer,
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