



Today's Date: December 1, 2022

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Horizon recognizes World AIDS Day with free and confidential HIV/HEP-C testing

Lynchburg, VA – HIV is a serious condition that can affect people of all ages, genders, and sexual orientations. Though around 31,000 people were diagnosed with HIV in the United States in 2020, as many as one in eight people living with HIV don't know they have it (CDC, 2020).

World AIDS Day, celebrated each year on December 1st, brings together people and organizations from around the world to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and encourage progress in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care around the world.

In support of this goal, Horizon Behavioral Health and the Coalition for HIV Awareness and Prevention (CHAP) is reminding the community to take advantage of free, confidential HIV and Hepatitis C testing that is available to all residents in the central Virginia region. All those who participate in Horizon's Expanded Testing Program on Thursday, December 1, 2022, from 9:00am-2:00pm will receive a \$10.00 gift card, while supplies last. Individuals can receive free, confidential testing by visiting Horizon's Wellness Center at Langhorne located at 2215 Langhorne Rd. Lynchburg, VA 24501 (no appointment necessary). For more information, call 434-382-8649. Horizon is proud to offer HIV testing to all central Virginia residents, regardless of age, income, or insurance status.

“Getting tested for HIV is the best way to protect your health and the health of the people you care about. People may find out that they are HIV positive at any age, so it is important to know if you are at risk and test often.” Says Rhonda Turner, Program Manager at Horizon Behavioral Health. “Because symptoms of HIV/AIDS can take years to develop, it's essential to get tested even if you feel fine.”

More information can be found at www.horizonbh.org/know-your-status.

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Horizon Behavioral Health has been the primary public behavioral healthcare provider in the Region 2000 area for more than 53 years. In the last year, Horizon provided services to approximately 12,000 adults and children, addressing problems with mental health, substance use and intellectual disabilities. Horizon is accredited by CARF International. This represents the highest level of accreditation that can be given to a behavioral health organization.